



SMITH RIVER STATE PARK AND RIVER CORRIDOR ANNUAL REPORT 2008



A comprehensive summary of management activities, visitor use statistics, and social and resource conditions on the Smith River corridor during the 2008 field season

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***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***



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SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

The Parks Division of Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) manages recreational floating along a 59-mile segment of the Smith River from Camp Baker to Eden Bridge as part of Smith River State Park and River Corridor. The Smith River is the only river in Montana where a permit is required for both public and commercial use. Management of the river corridor is conducted through an interagency partnership between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and the United State Forest Service (USFS). Approximately 80% of the land along the river corridor is in private ownership, with the other 20% publicly owned.

The Smith River float is extremely popular during a short season, with an average of 3,901 people floating the river per year. The Smith River is unique in that it has only one public put-in and one public take-out for the entire 59-mile segment of river. The river is noted for its spectacular scenery and red-ribbon trout fishery.

This report is compiled from data gathered during the 2008 float season (April through October 2008) for Smith River State Park & River Corridor. Statistical and observational information was gathered from state park staff and recreational floaters.

SECTION 2 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A record-number 5,823 private launch applications were received for the 2008 float season, a 16.2% increase from the 5,012 applications received in 2007. A total of 560 private groups floated the Smith River, involving 3,931 individual floaters, compared to the 16-year average of private use of 527 groups, with 3,212 people.

The 9 authorized commercial outfitters conducted a total of 53 trips involving 695 floaters (including both clients and guides), as compared to the 16-year average of outfitted use of 49 groups per year with 575 people.

Of particular importance is the fact that two of the three Management Plan indicator standards were out of compliance in 2008. The indicators out of compliance included: 1) the number of floaters in the canyon at one time and 2) the average group size.

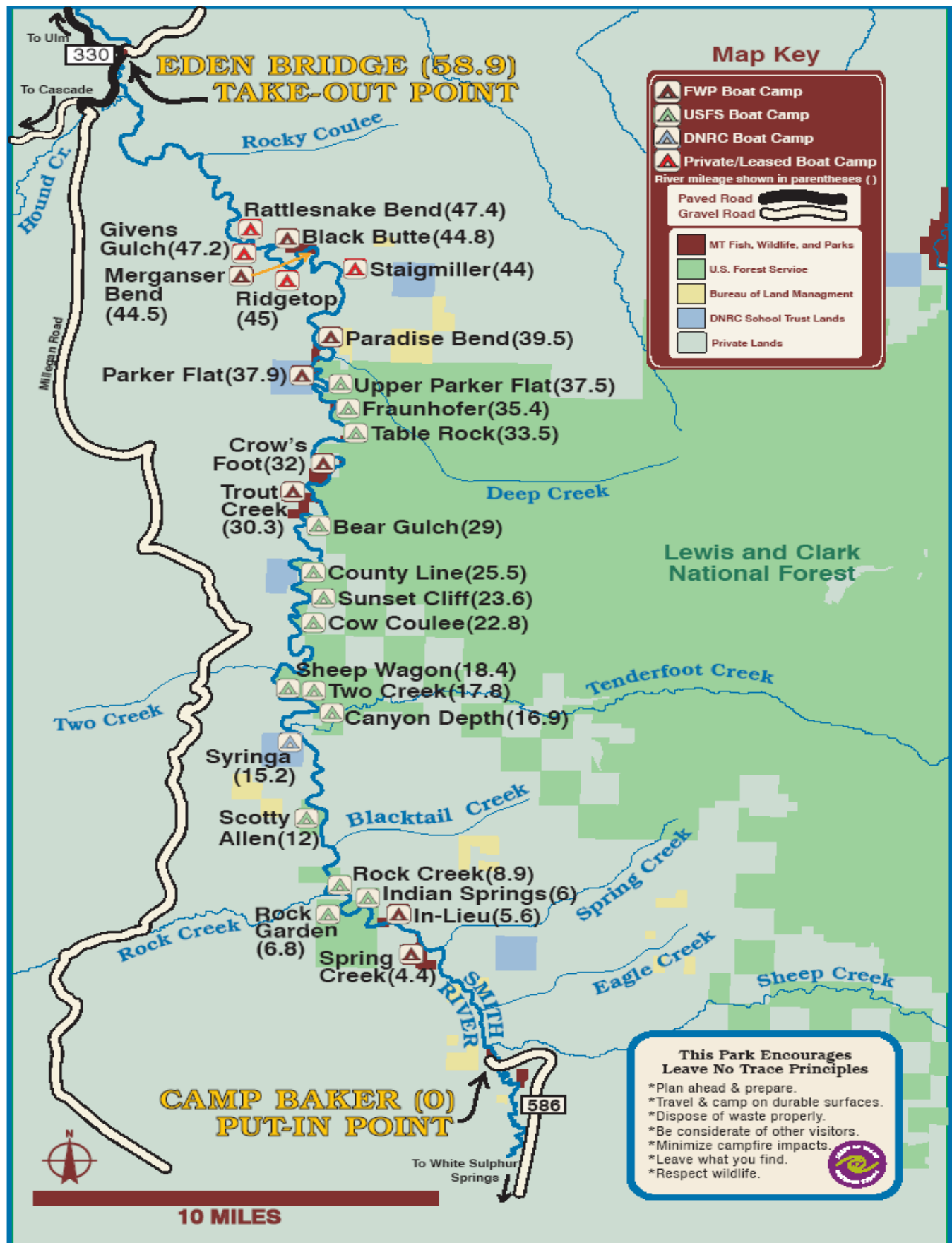
The 2008 float season was the 2nd highest use season on record, with a total of 4,836 floaters. *Note: 1997 use numbers were only slightly lower than 2008 however, statistics for fee waived and landowner floats were not compiled in 1997. Therefore, 1997 is recognized as the season of highest use.* Use levels in April 2008 were very low due to subzero temperatures and a subsequent river closure due to ice. Thus, visitor use for the month of April was the lowest it's been for the past 11 years, with only 143 floaters, as compared to 482 floaters in 2007. Visitor use for the month of May was the 4th highest on record with 1,377 floaters. June experienced a record month with total visitor use of 2,107 floaters and an average group size of 8.85 floaters per group. July was the 3rd highest season on record with 1,168 floaters. Above average snow pack and timely snow and rain systems in early June extended the float season through the end of July.

River flows during the Fall shoulder season were the highest they've been in several years. Monthly flows for September and October averaged 128 cfs and 134 cfs respectively. Twelve groups with a total of 25 people floated in September, while 4 groups with a total of 14 people floated in October.

The seasonal average for number of floaters per group (7.37) was the 2nd highest on record, slightly below 7.39 floaters per group in 2007. The average number of floaters per group has shown an upward trend over the past 16 seasons.

Based on the visitor floater log feedback, visitor satisfaction and enjoyment of the recreational resources and management of the river corridor continued to be very positive. These are strong indications that the Smith River continues to offer one of Montana's premier recreational opportunities.

SECTION 3 – SMITH RIVER AREA MAP



SECTION 4 - MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Administration

The Parks Division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks administers Smith River State Park & River Corridor based out of Region 4 Headquarters in Great Falls, Montana. Cooperative management support is also provided by the U.S. Forest Service out of the White Sulphur Springs and Belt Creek Ranger Districts of the Lewis & Clark National Forest.

Administrative duties in the FWP office include planning and preparation for the coming season, updating printed and website information, purchasing supplies, hiring employees, meeting with the USFS and commercial guide/outfitters, and preparing for the lottery drawing for the private Smith River float permits. The majority of the office time spent throughout the float season involves answering public inquiries via the telephone.

Duties in the field include routine maintenance of the recreational facilities along the river corridor from Camp Baker (put-in) to Eden Bridge (take-out), including the 52 boat camps along the river. Visitor outreach and education, with an emphasis on public safety, resource protection and Leave No Trace ethics are also typical duties. River Rangers conduct weekly float patrols on the Smith River throughout the float season.

The Smith River rangers spend several hours each day at Camp Baker answering questions, conducting pre-launch informative talks, registering floaters, collecting floater fees and recording daily use statistics, which are used to track recreational float use trends on the river.

Staffing

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks R-4 employees involved with the 2008 Smith River program included:

- Colin Maas – Smith River Manager
- Roger Semler – Region 4 Parks Manager
- Kirk Perszyk – Seasonal River Ranger
- Terry Antonich – Seasonal River Ranger
- Charles Holtz – Seasonal River Ranger
- Carla Corbally – Smith River Reservation Clerk
- Chris Dantic – Interpretive Specialist

Numerous other FWP employees from R-4 and Helena Headquarters office played a role in a team effort to make the Smith River program work successfully.

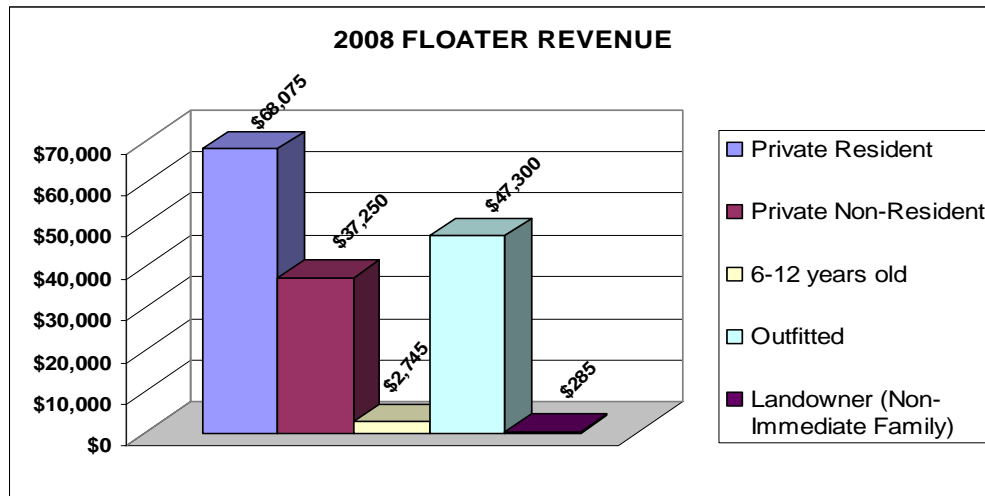
On March 31, 2008, Terry Antonich and Charles Holtz were hired as a seasonal River Rangers while Kirk Perszyk returned for his 5th season. On June 30, Kirk resigned his Smith River ranger position and accepted a full-time position as the FWP Madison River Ranger in R-3 Bozeman. Kirk's dedication and outstanding service to the Smith River resources and floating public will surely be missed.

Fee Revenue

The following floater fees were approved for the 2007-08 season (April 01 – October 31) through the January 2007 Smith River Special Use Area Rule:

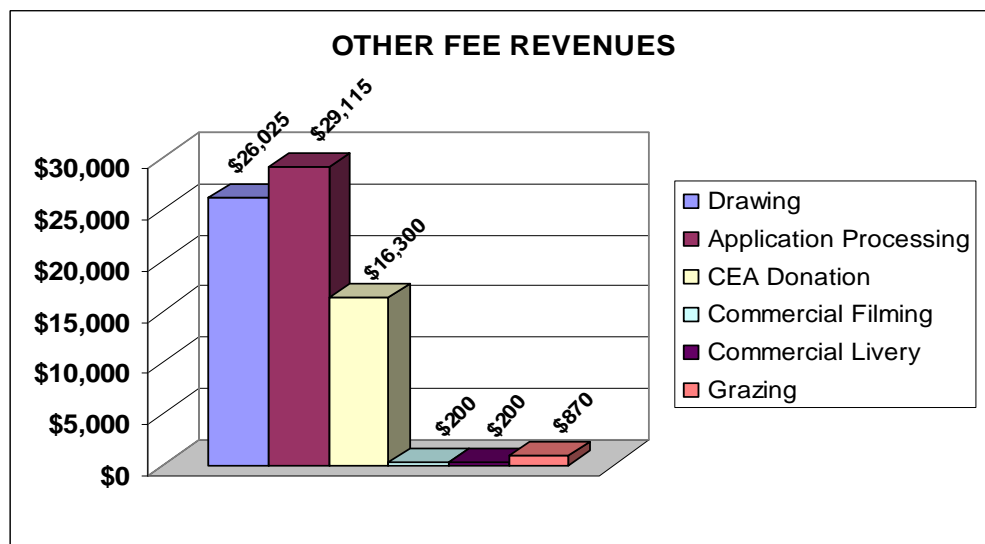
- Permit drawing fee (residents and non-residents, non-refundable) = **\$5.00**
- Private launch pre-registration fee (resident application) = **\$25.00**
- Private launch pre-registration fee (non-resident application) = **\$50.00**
- Montana Resident Floaters Age 13+, Outfitter Staff (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$25.00**
- Non-Montana Resident Floaters Age 13+ (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$50.00**
- Children Ages 6-12 (Resident or Non-resident) (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$15.00**
- Landowner Non-Immediate Family = **\$7.50**
- Outfitted Client Floater = **\$100.00**
- Outfitted Pre-Launch Fee = **\$200.00**
- Outfitted Transfer Fee = **\$250.00**

Total “floater fee” revenue collected in 2008 was \$155,655. Floater fee revenues increased by \$19,662 over 2007 revenues.



GRAPH 1: FLOATER FEES COLLECTED IN 2008

Total “other fee” revenue collected in 2008 was \$72,710. Other fee revenues increased by \$5,707 over 2007 revenues.



GRAPH 2: OTHER FEES COLLECTED IN 2008

Corridor Enhancement Account

The Smith River Corridor Enhancement Account (CEA) was established by the FWP Commission to “better manage and protect the river corridor.” Fifty dollars from each outfitted client fee and 5% of private floater fees collected are deposited into the CEA. The CEA can be used only for the Smith River Corridor, including the purchase of lands and easements. During the 2008 season, approximately \$36,473 was added to the CEA account. As of December 31, 2008, the balance of the CEA was \$382,963.

Administrative Floats

A total of 22 administrative river patrol floats were conducted during the 2008 season for the purpose of managing the Smith River. The primary focus of these trips was visitor education and outreach, boat camp maintenance, resource protection, law enforcement, landowner contacts, noxious weed control and public safety.

During routine river patrols, rangers visited with numerous recreational floaters and landowners throughout the 59-mile river corridor. Boat camps were checked for litter and resource damage, signs were repaired or replaced, fire grates were cleaned out, and pit latrines were dug and maintained. Litter was packed out, including metal and glass thrown into the fire rings, along with partially burned garbage. Private property was checked for signage, trespass and other impacts.

Field personnel continue to provide an important means for FWP and USFS to observe and address visitor use and resource protection concerns and issues.

Volunteer Activity

In 2008, 50 citizen volunteers contributed approximately 2,326 hours (equivalent to 1.12 FTE) to the Smith River program. Volunteer hosts at the Eden Bridge take-out provided important maintenance and visitor services for floaters, as well as collecting post-trip floater logs. They also collected and separated approximately 1,386 pounds of aluminum cans for recycling. The revenue earned from this recycling effort totaled \$830 and was donated to Project Hope and Camp Make-A-Dream.

Other volunteers also performed additional duties including, shuttling FWP vehicles, accompanying River Rangers during river patrols and performing a five-day noxious weed float pulling Hounds Tongue in the boat camps.

Volunteers add immeasurably to the Smith River program. For example, vandalism was greatly reduced at the Eden Bridge take-out when a volunteer host was present. The interaction between volunteers and FWP staff helps gain insight into public opinion and feedback on river resource and social conditions.

Education and Outreach

The river rangers continued to conduct pre-float orientation talks at the Camp Baker put-in to educate and inform floaters about river safety, as well as the rules and regulations for floating the Smith River. Noxious weed control is also discussed in an effort to make the public aware of the problems with noxious weed infestations. Rangers emphasized Leave No Trace ethics and their importance in minimizing social and resource impacts in the river corridor.

In late 2005, FWP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meagher and Cascade County Weed Districts, USDA Forest Service and the Smith River Habitat Project Inc. for cooperative management of noxious weeds throughout the Smith River Corridor. During the 2006 season, FWP installed a noxious weed information board at Camp Baker posting details about the cooperative weed treatment program in place within the Smith River corridor. In 2007 and 2008, a treatment area map was posted on the information board. The Smith River website and mail-out floater information packet were updated and improved to address frequently asked questions, special resource protection concerns, and recommendations to reduce group size to help FWP comply with the Smith River Management Plan standards.



PRE-FLOAT ORIENTATION TALK.

Projects Completed

The following projects were accomplished in late 2007 through the end of 2008:

Camp Baker

- Interior furnishing installation completed in house and Ranger Station.
- Decks on house completed and grass seeding around house and Ranger Station completed.
- Reception counter and work desk constructed and installed in Ranger Station.
- Transition of former ranger cabin and office into new tool shed and equipment storage completed.
- New firewood shed is placed on site.
- Sidewalk construction between ranger station and latrines completed.
- Directional and regulation signing installed.
- Security gate for ranger housing painted and signs installed.
- Informational bulletin board and sign-in box installed on deck of ranger station.
- Phone line work under the house completed.

River Corridor

- 50 pit latrines were dug (season record). 125 pit latrines have been dug in past 3 years. Three year average is 42 pit latrines per year.
- Resource impact measurements within boat camps completed.
- Cultural survey of Deep Creek Conservation Easement completed.
- Confirmed location for future boat camp on Deep Creek Conservation Easement.
- Volunteer group from Malmstrom Air Force Base performed 2nd annual Hounds Tongue weed-pull float.

Administrative

- Draft management plan completed and released for public comment.
- Worked with private mapmaker in development of a new Smith River float map.



INSTALLING HOUSE SECURITY GATE



MOVING LATRINE SCREENING

Management Actions

The Smith River program implemented the following management actions and recommendations in 2008:

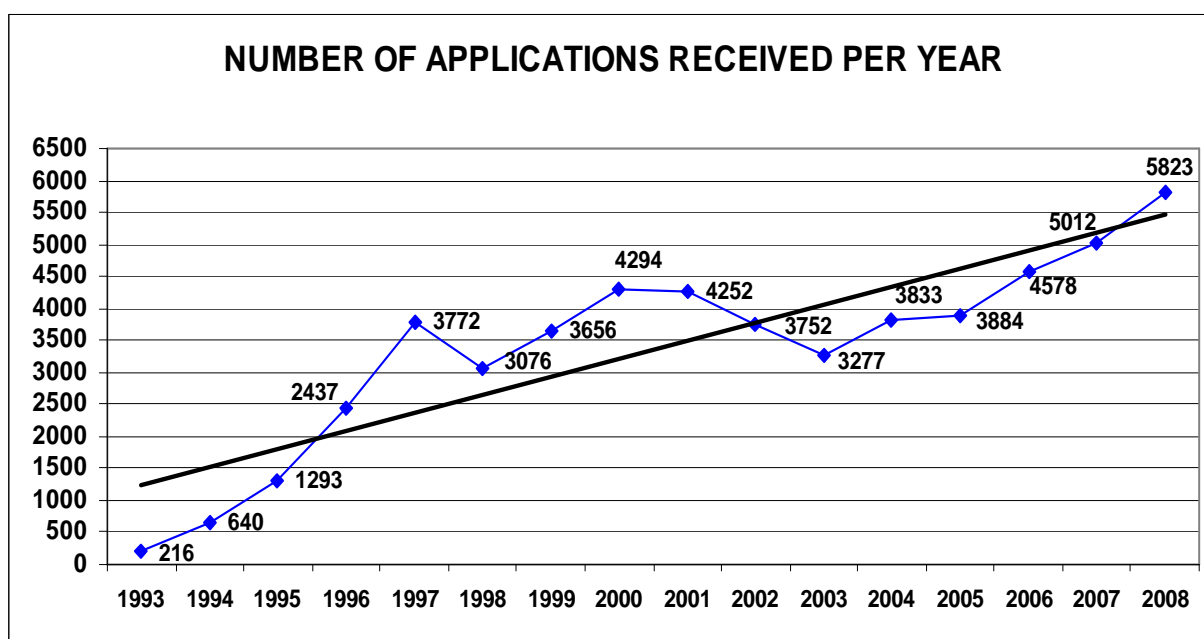
- In 2007, FWP initiated a management plan update process. The current management plan was adopted in 1996. A citizen's advisory committee was formed to assist with this process. The first planning meeting was conducted in June 2007 with the final meeting conducted in September 2008. FWP completed and released a draft management plan and environmental assessment for public review and comment in December 2008. The public comment period will end on January 30, 2009. It's anticipated that a final plan will be adopted in April 2009. Any changes initiated by the new plan would be implemented during the 2010 float season.
- FWP updated the Smith River Special Use Area Rule (December 2008). In accordance with the Smith River Management Act, Section 23-2-408, MCA, authorizes the FWP Commission to provide for the administration of the Smith River waterway. The Special Use Area Rule contains the administrative rules specific to managing recreational use on the Smith River.
- In 2007, FWP was granted legislative authority to add .35 FTE for a 3rd seasonal river ranger position. In March 2008, the 3rd river ranger position was hired.
- On March 27, 2008, the FWP Commission authorized R-4 Parks to close the Smith River to recreational floating due to the river freezing over in several sections. Several permit holders were personally contacted to inform them of the closure and their permits were automatically cancelled. After conducting an inspection flyover, the river was reopened to public floating on April 11, 2008.
- FWP continued to recommend that float groups limit their group size to eight people or less and trip duration to no more than four days and three nights in order to help compliance with the Smith River Management Plan standards for maximum number of people in the corridor at one time and average group size per month.
- FWP continued to recommend that floaters leave dogs at home, unless visitors fully intend to comply with the leash regulation. Dogs brought along on recreational floats have become an increasing source of complaints from floaters, as well as landowners along the river. Again in 2008, as in years past, FWP received complaints (verbal and written) related to dog problems at Camp Baker, the boat camps, and Eden Bridge. Incidents over the years have included visitor injuries from dog bites, dogs getting into food in adjacent camps, dog waste left behind, digging of holes, chasing of livestock and wildlife and associated trespassing onto private property. Floaters were again advised that citations will be issued for all dogs not kept on leash and under control at all times during the 2008 float season.

SECTION 5 - VISITOR USE STATISTICS

Private Launch Applications

A total of 5,823 private launch applications were received for the 2008 float season. This was an all-time high, surpassing the previous high of 5,012 applications in 2007, and was a 16.2% increase.

The private application forms were made available electronically on the FWP web page during the 2008 application period. The public was able to apply on-line or print the application, fill it out and mail it in. The applications were also made available at all FWP Regional offices. Applications were accepted from Jan. 2, 2008 through Feb. 15, 2008. A trip-planning information sheet was provided with the application with answers to frequently asked questions regarding recommended stream flows for floating, camping facilities, and river regulations.



GRAPH 3: NUMBER OF APPLICANTS PER YEAR

Floater Registration

FWP Commission rules (Smith River Special Use Area Rule) require mandatory registration for all floaters on the Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge from April 01 to October 31. This includes initially applying for a private launch date and then completing the registration procedures on the day of departure at Camp Baker. Because of high demand for floating the Smith River and limitations on the number of launches allowed, a drawing is held for the initial allocation of all private float launch dates. The 2008 season marked the 16TH year of this process. In 2008, the number of applications received for the drawing increased to 5,823, surpassing the previous high of 5,012 in 2007 (graph 3, page 9). 890 private launch permits were allocated via the 2008 drawing. The overall success rate for obtaining a permit through the lottery was approximately 15%.

All applications received were entered into a computer database. Immediately after the drawing, floater's packets with permits were sent to successful applicants. Refunds were issued to those who were unsuccessful and who elected to not donate their permit application fee to the CEA.

After the initial drawing, remaining launch dates were made available to the public. The computer-based reservation system allows FWP to track cancellations and open launch dates, which are then made available via the Smith River reservation phone line. The computer database continues to be refined and serves both the public and FWP very well.

Self-registration by floaters is required in the event river rangers are not present at Camp Baker. The instructions and related materials for self-registration and campsite declaration are contained within packets found inside a self-registration box, which is mounted on the kiosk at Camp Baker. Floaters must adhere to the honor system to fill out the registration/ permit and follow all of the instructions to complete the process. All watercraft utilized by floaters are required to display the provided boat tag while on the river. Different colored tags were used to distinguish private, outfitted and landowner groups.

During the 2008 float season, 35 groups were "no-shows." Many of these were during the late or early part of the season. In accordance with FWP Commission rules, permit holders failing to properly cancel their reservation will not be able to apply for the 2008 drawing.

There were a total of 472 permits that were cancelled. All of these permits were made available for pick-up, with the exception of the first five cancellations during any given week from June 10 to July 10. The total number of cancelled permits includes three different types: 1) Cancelled. 2) Cancelled/Combined: consolidating a permit with another permit holder in order to float with them. 3) Cancelled/Changed Date: canceling an original launch date while moving into another launch date.

First-Time Floaters: Private Permits

In 2008, "first-time" private permit holders were tracked. The results found that of the 560 private group permit holders that floated the Smith River in 2008, 154 (28%) were first-time floaters.

Floater Logs

The Floater Log is an information card that floaters voluntarily fill out and return at the conclusion of their trip. Floaters were asked to do one of the following with their completed Floater Log: 1) Give their completed Floater Log to the FWP volunteers at Eden Bridge. 2) Deposit their logs in the receptacle at Eden Bridge, or 3) Mail them to the Great Falls FWP office if no one was present at Eden Bridge to collect them. In addition to general data collection, many personal comments relating to a memorable experience or observations were noted. Of 613 private and outfitted groups that floated, 404 (66%) returned a floater log.

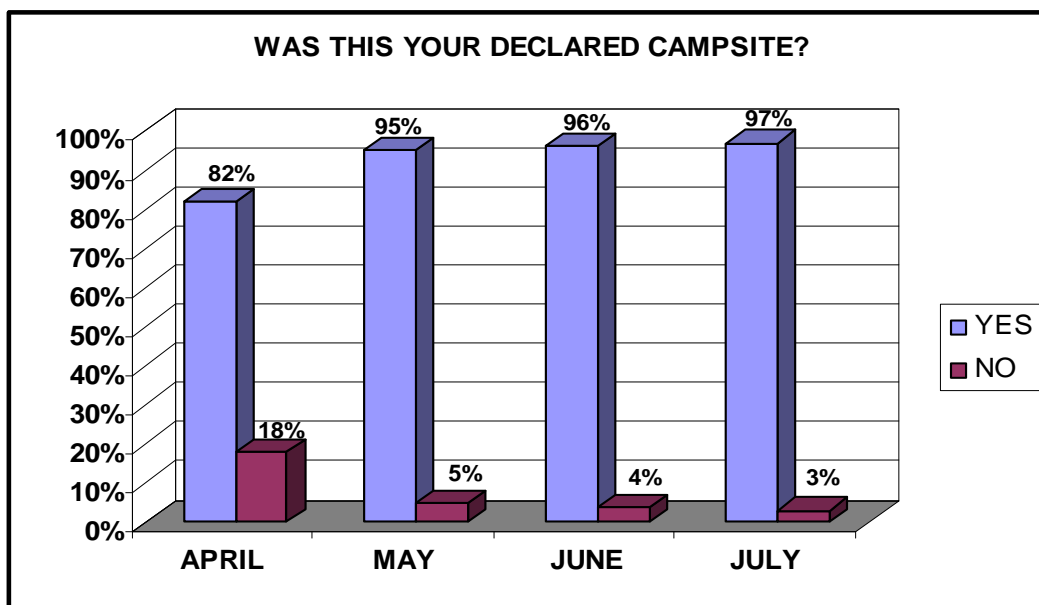
Floater Log Comment Summary

The floater's log comment card is a useful tool to receive instant feedback from recreational users of the Smith River. A complete list of all the floater log comments is available on the FWP Smith River website <http://fwp.mt.gov/recreation/activities/smithriver/default.html> or call 406-454-5857 to receive a copy. The comments from the 404 floater logs are summarized on pages 11-21. Responses to fishing-related questions are not included.

2008 FLOATER LOG COMMENT SUMMARY

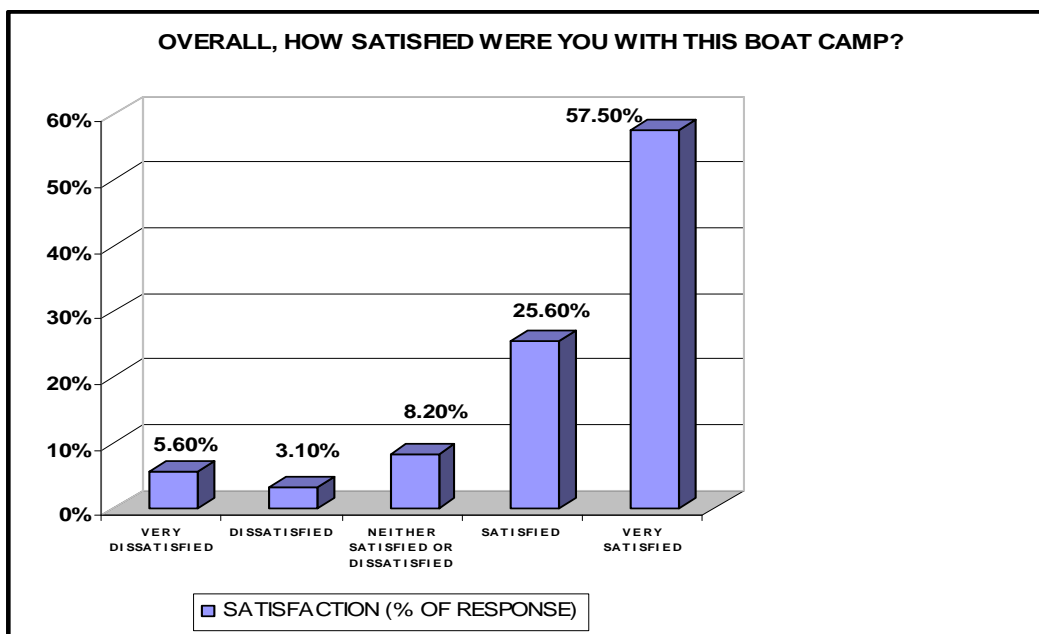
CAMPSITE QUESTIONS:

Question: Was this your declared boat camp?



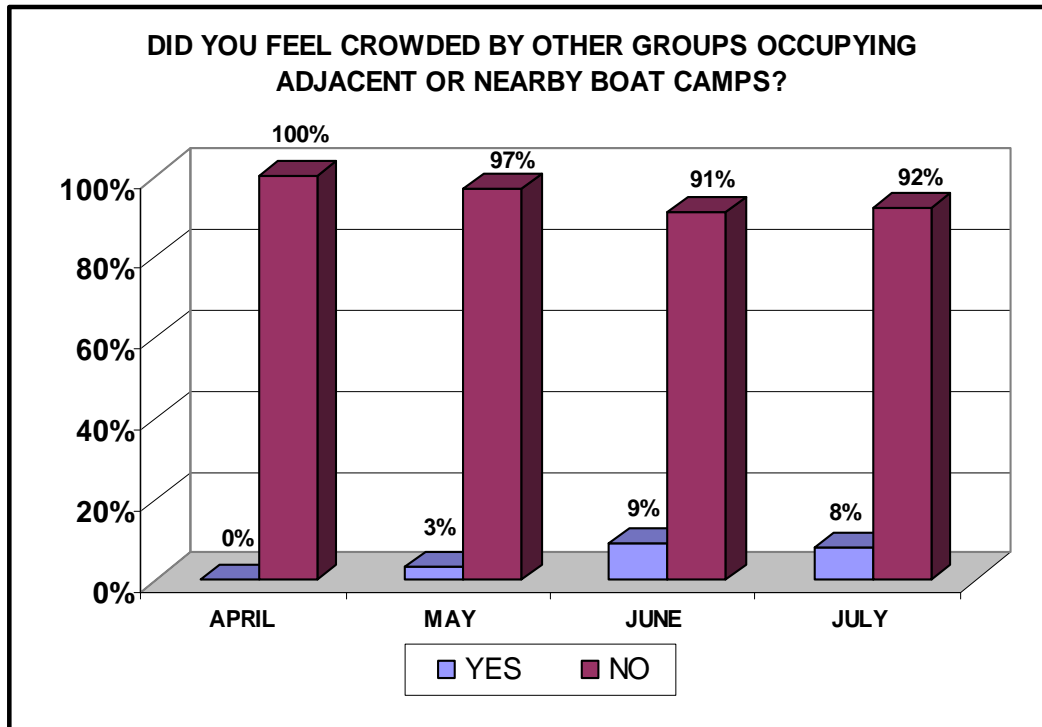
GRAPH 4: FLOATER BOAT CAMP DECLARATION

Question: Overall, how satisfied were you with this boat camp?



GRAPH 5: BOAT CAMP SATISFACTION

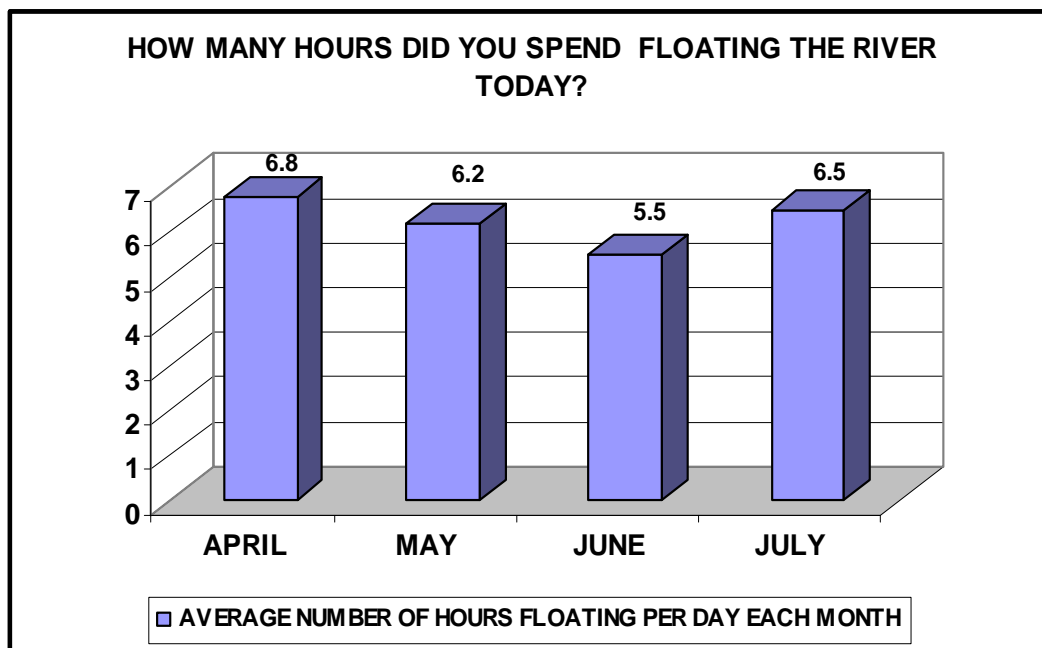
Question: Did you feel crowded by other groups occupying adjacent or nearby boat camps?



GRAPH 6: PERCEPTION OF CROWDING BY ADJACENT BOAT CAMPS

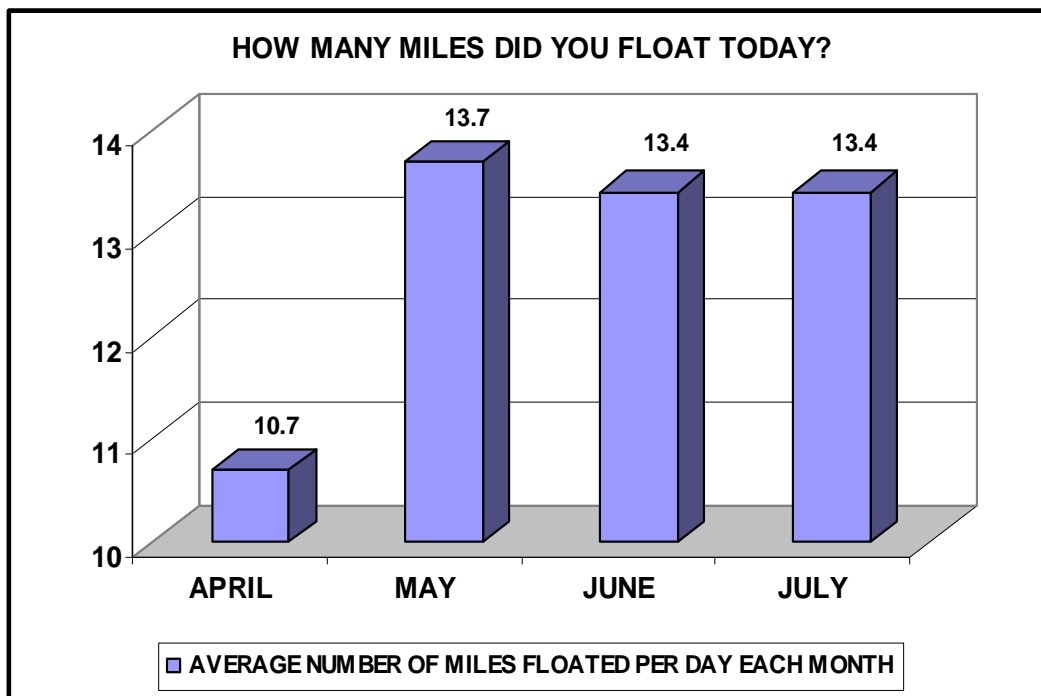
FLOATING QUESTIONS

Question: How many **hours** did you spend floating the river today?



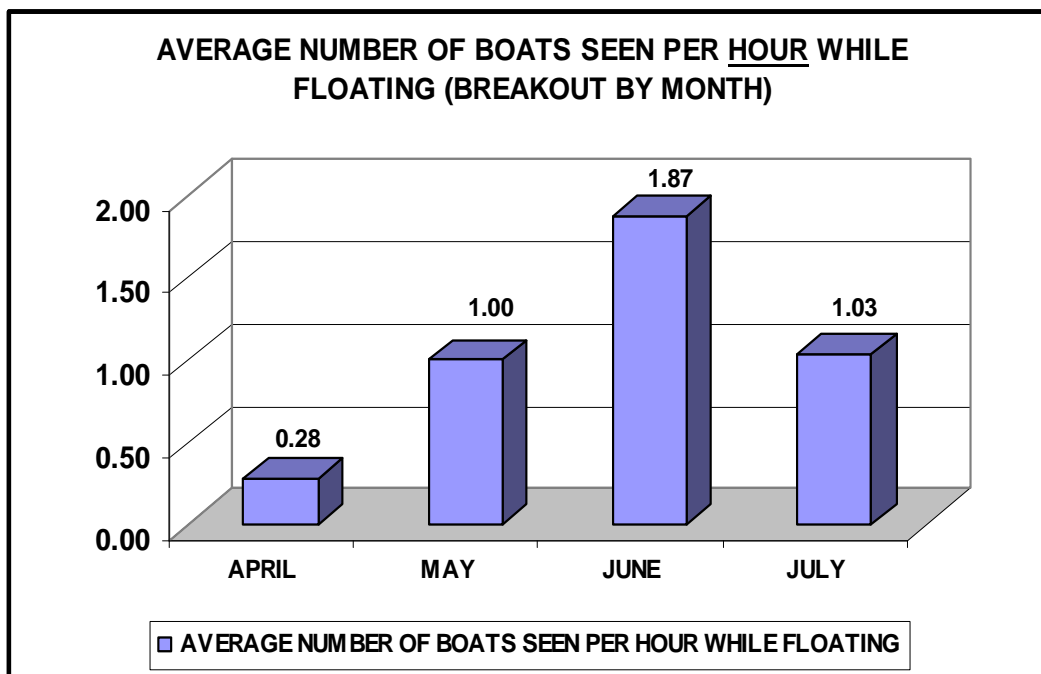
GRAPH 7: FLOATER HOURS ON THE RIVER PER DAY

Question: How many **miles** did you float today?

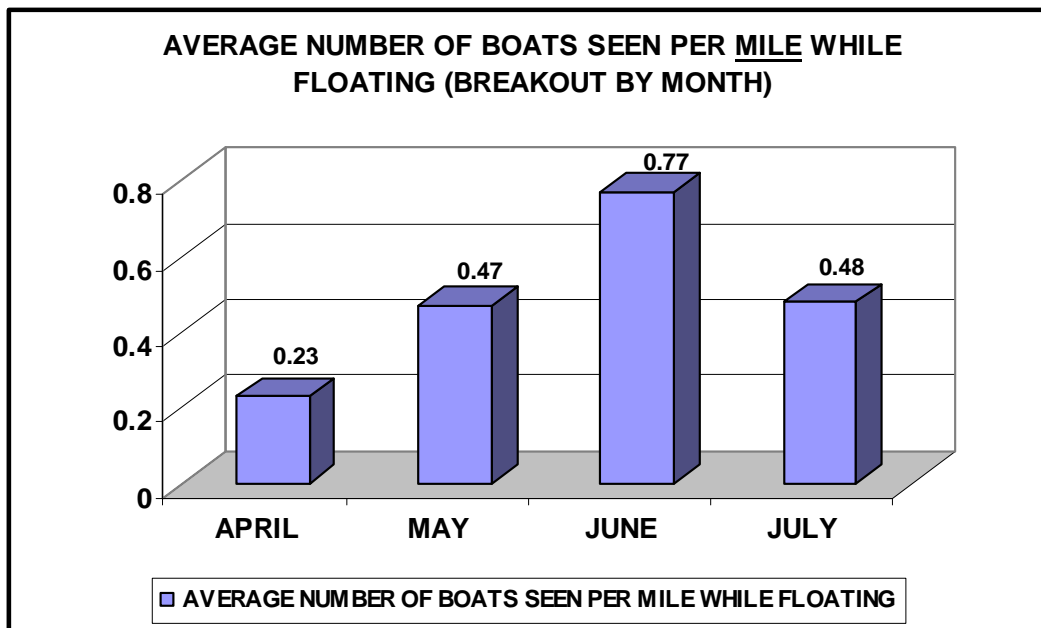


GRAPH 8: FLOATER DAILY MILES

Question: How many other **boats** did you observe while floating the river today (excluding your group)?

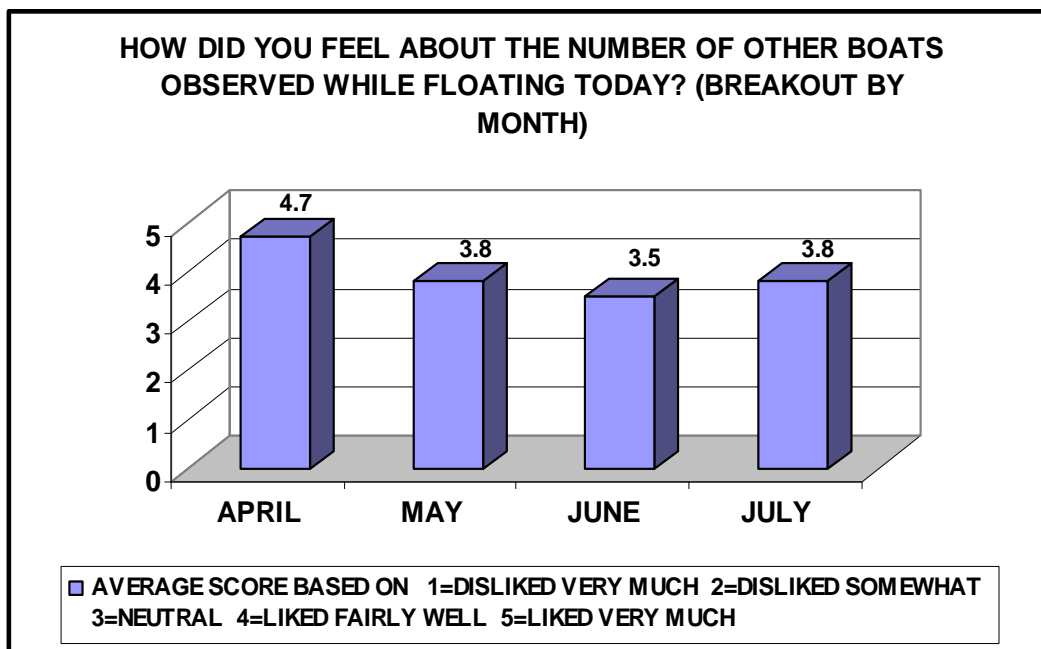


GRAPH 9: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER HOUR

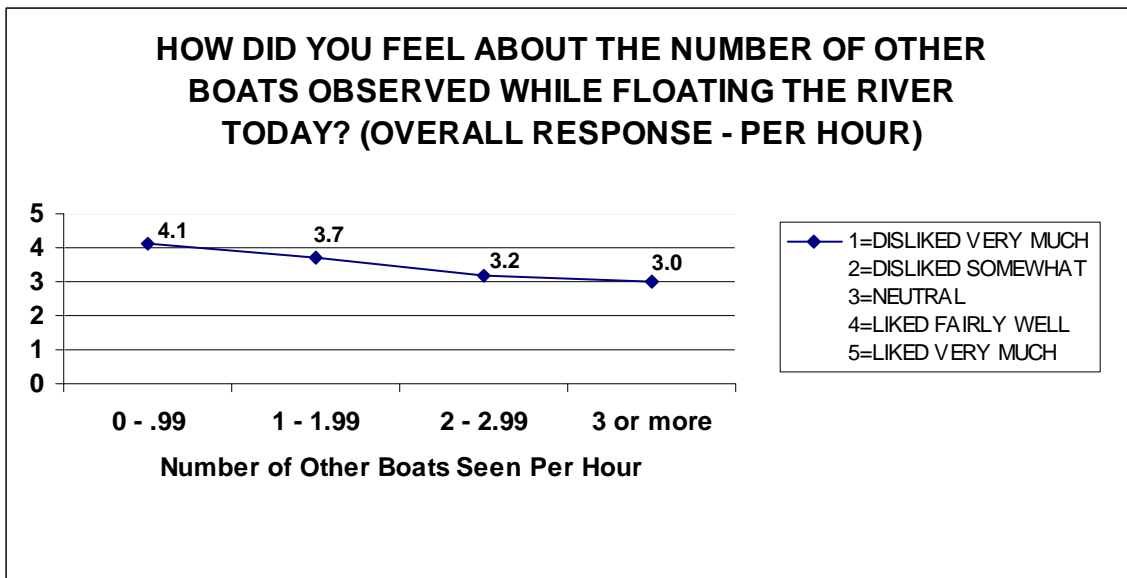


GRAPH 10: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER MILE

Question: How did you **feel** about the number of other boats observed while floating the river today?



GRAPH 11: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER DAY



**GRAPH 12: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER DAY – OVERALL
RESPONSE PER HOUR**

Question # 1: If you DID NOT stay at a declared campsite at any time during your float trip, why not?

Question # 1 - Content Analysis:

A total of 40 parties recorded one or more responses to this question on the 2008 Floater Logs. The stated reasons or rationale (# of comments noted in parenthesis) for deviating from declared campsites included:

- Weather-induced changes in itinerary (5)
- Double-booked campsites (6)
- Displaced by another group (6)
- Disliked campsite conditions, facilities or setting (4)
- Shortened float, floated faster than expected, exited river early (2)
- Confused about name or location of declared campsite (1)
- Late start on river (4)
- Fatigue and/or Illness (1)
- Undeclared campsite was empty, so it was utilized (1)
- Accidentally passed campsite (4)
- Mistake declaring boat camp during self-registration (2)
- To decrease mileage on following day (1)
- Campsite closed due to bear activity (1)
- Low river flow and short daylight hours (4)
- Mutual trade with another group (2)
- Landowner invited us to camp on his property (1)
- Boating accident (1)

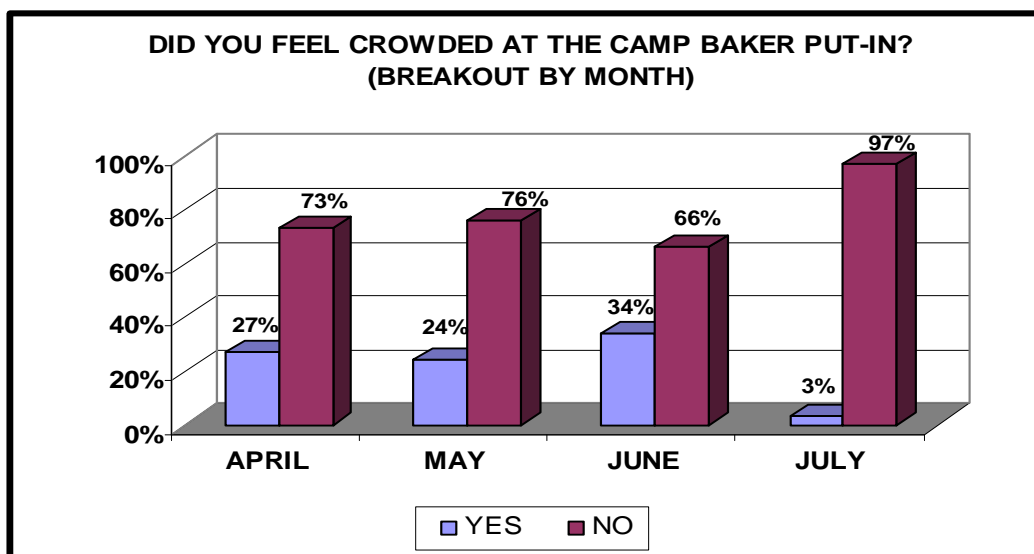
Question #2: If you were not satisfied with a boat camp at any time during your float trip, please tell us why you were dissatisfied.

Question # 2 - Content Analysis:

A total of 107 parties recorded one or more responses to this question on the 2008 Floater Logs. The stated reasons or rationale (# of comments noted in parenthesis) for being dissatisfied with a boat camp included:

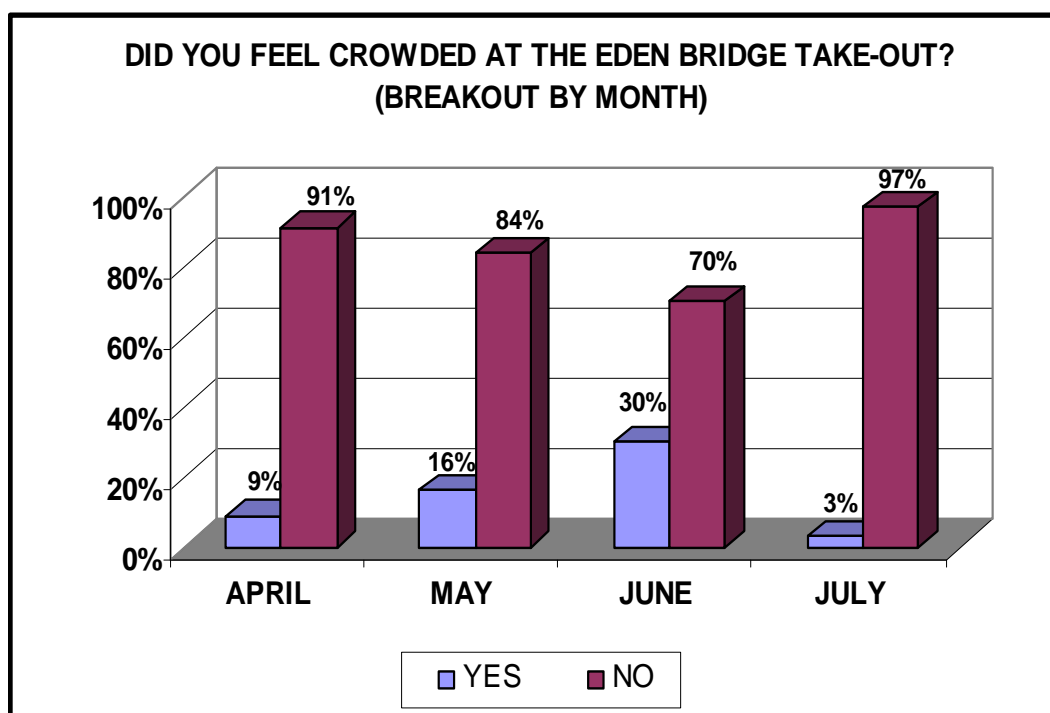
- Current too fast at landing (2)
- Boat Camp sign not readily visible from river (4)
- Social conflict with group in adjacent camp (5)
- Social conflict with private property owner [vehicles, noise, lights, road, cows] (6)
- Boat Camp location too far from landing (1)
- Boat camp too small (8)
- Adjacent boat camp too close (18)
- Limited trees for shading or cover (14)
- Landing too steep (10)
- Landing too muddy (6)
- Limited flat ground for tent sites (8)
- Core camping area muddy when wet (1)
- Latrine site too far and/or steep (5)
- Latrine lacked privacy (11)
- Latrine seat/lid broken (4)
- Latrine trail and/or site overgrown with vegetation (6)
- Disliked campsite conditions, facilities or setting (1)
- Boat camp eroding into river (2)
- Lack of tie-off posts (5)
- Tie-off posts loose (1)
- Presence of cow manure (4)
- Fire ring located in mud hole (3)
- Lack of picnic tables and/or benches (1)
- Placed in camp with known bear activity (1)
- Cattle in camp (3)
- Noxious weeds present (1)

Question #4: Did you feel crowded at the put-in? Yes or No



GRAPH 12: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF FEELING CROWDED AT CAMP BAKER PUT-IN

Question #5: Did you feel crowded at the take-out? Yes or No



GRAPH 13: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF FEELING CROWDED AT EDEN BRIDGE TAKE-OUT

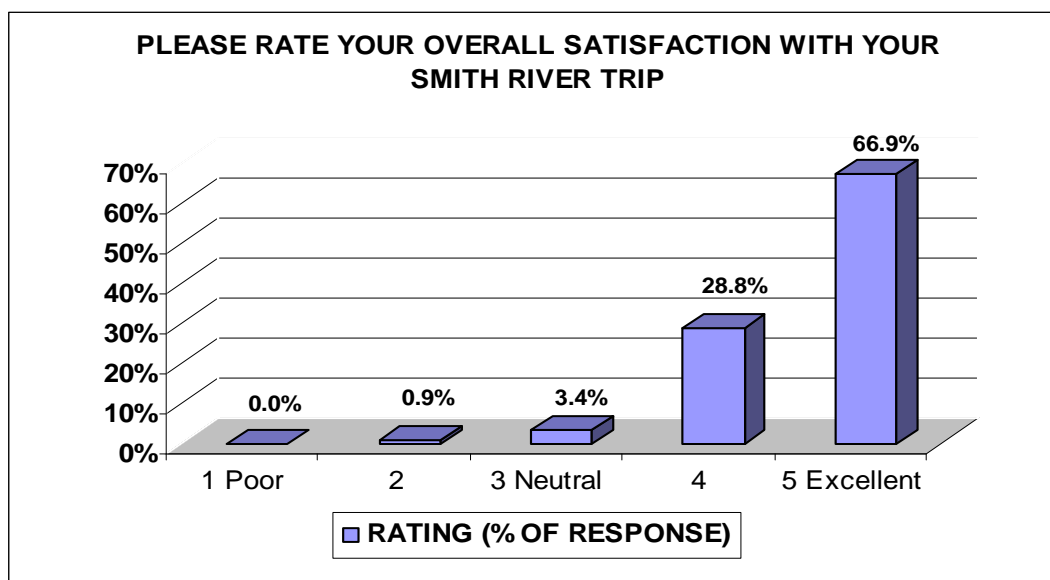
Question # 6: Did you witness any violations during your float trip (park or fishing regulations, other)? If so, what and where? Please note the boat tag numbers if possible.

Question # 6 - Content Analysis:

A total of 24 parties recorded one or more responses (number of comments are in parenthesis) to this question on the 2008 Floater Logs. Note: Any violations that were documented by floaters in question 8 (general comments) is also included here. The stated observations of non-compliance are summarized as follows:

- Litter in boat camp (8)
- Litter in fire ring (4)
- Litter in latrine (2)
- Litter in or along river (1)
- Dog off-leash (7)
- Dog waste (2)
- Campfire unattended – not extinguished (6)
- Campfire out of designated grates (1)
- Improper disposal of human waste (3)
- Disorderly Conduct – Public Intoxication (1)
- Disorderly Conduct – Quiet hours violation (2)
- Property Disturbance – Tree cutting and/or branch cutting (2)
- Firearms – Discharging in boat camp (1)
- Fireworks – Discharging in boat camp (1)
- Fishing Violation – Method of harvest (1)

Question # 7: Please rate your overall satisfaction with your Smith River trip.



GRAPH 14: FLOATER OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH SMITH RIVER TRIP

Question # 8: Any other comments you have about your Smith River Trip or about the river in general are more than welcome.

Question # 8 - Content Analysis:

A total of 194 parties recorded one or more responses (number of comments are in parenthesis) to this question on the 2008 Floater Logs. The content of the comments are analyzed as follows:

General Response

- Overall positive and/or satisfied with their river float experience (54)
- Complimentary or positive comments regarding FWP's Smith River management efforts/practices (26)
- Negative comments regarding FWP's Smith River management efforts/practices (1)
- Provided recommendations for changes in FWP management practices (21)
- Positive comments regarding FWP River Rangers or Staff (23)
- Negative comments regarding FWP River Rangers or staff (3)
- Positive comments regarding launch and/or campsite conditions (7)
- Negative comments regarding launch and/or campsite conditions (4)
- Positive comments regarding river conditions and good fishing (1)
- Negative comments regarding river conditions and poor fishing (9)
- Positive comments regarding private property or landowners (2)
- Negative comments regarding private property or landowners (3)

Specific Complaints:

- Visitor behavior & user conflicts (1)
- Positive Outfitter/Guide behavior/attitude (1)
- Negative Outfitter/Guide behavior/attitude (11)
- Litter in boat camp (2)
- Group size too large (1)

- Camps too close together (1)
- Limited trees for shading or cover (1)
- Crowding – Camp Baker put-in (1)
- Crowding – too many people on river (1)
- Crowding - too many boats on river (2)
- Human waste in boat camp (1)
- Dog barking (1)
- Ranger's dog off leash at Camp Baker (1)
- Private Property – development, visual, noise, trucks (3)
- Latrine lacks privacy (2)
- Latrine lid and/or seat missing (1)
- Second latrine at Camp Baker locked (1)
- Landing difficult in low water – Upper, Middle Givens Gulch (1)
- Double-booked in campsite (3)
- Helicopter over flights (1)
- Camp Baker firewood green, full of sap (1)
- Flies and bees in camp (1)

Specific Recommendations:

Permits, Allocation, Fees

- Reduce maximum group size (5)
- Do not reduce maximum group size (1)
- Reduce number of launches per day (1)
- Develop staggered launch times (1)
- Increase the number of permits (2)
- Reduce the number of boats (1)
- Double the amount of floater fees (1)
- Do not reduce trip length to 3 nights (1)
- Reduce amount of commercial use (1)
- Commercial use incompatible with public resources (2)
- Discontinue Outfitter guaranteed launches – require them to recruit clients from list of successful permit holders (1)
- Outfitters should be given preference of larger boat camps (1)
- Make boat camp selection more equitable (1)
- Continue the designated boat camp assignment system (1)
- Need two or more rangers to register groups (1)
- Continue to allow children on river (1)
- Designate the Smith River as Wild & Scenic (1)

Administrative Rules

- Require human waste pack-out (3)
- Continue to provide and/or appreciate presence of pit latrines (19)
- Prohibit dogs on river (3)
- Continue to allow dogs on river (5)

Education and Outreach

- Increase the number of rangers (1)
- Continue ranger patrols (1)
- Ranger should be in uniform while interacting with the public (1)
- Develop a map of hiking trails (1)

- Develop a brochure of the area history (1)
- Inform floaters to separate aluminum cans (1)

Fishing

- Implement catch-and-release fishing only (1)
- Post tributaries closed to fishing until the 3rd Saturday in May (1)
- Use Corridor Enhancement Account on habitat restoration (1)

Boat Camps and Facilities

- Designate additional boat camps (1)
- Designate boat camps specifically for larger groups (1)
- Increase distance between boat camps (2)
- Provide picnic tables at boat camps (4)
- Provide a trash dumpster at Camp Baker (2)
- Install fencing around boat camp perimeters to keep cattle out (1)
- Inform floaters that most boat camps have multiple sites [upper, middle, lower] (1)
- Install alert signing that indicates when a boat camp is coming up (1)
- Harden trails to core camp area and latrine (1)
- Brush vegetation in front of Upper Sunset Cliff boat camp sign (1)
- Groups with small children [fussy, crying] should be in camps a good distance away from other groups (1)
- Provide directions to location of the spring at Bear Gulch (1)
- Designate hiking trails (2)
- Improve trailhead signing of hiking trails (2)
- Trail to pictographs needs work (1)
- Move the warning sign at the channel split to river left (1)
- Restrict long-term parking at Eden Bridge take-out area (1)
- Install composting toilets (2)
- Plenty of areas remain to continue digging latrines (1)
- Position latrines to face the river (2)
- View from latrines was beautiful (1)
- Some groups will not comply with a mandatory human waste pack-out requirement (1)

Safety

- Treed by aggressive black bear on Trail #331 [Sunset Cliff BC] (1)
- Bear got into garbage bag at Sunset Cliff boat camp (1)
- Bear in camp at Sunset Cliff - Ranger should have informed us this was a known bear area (1)
- Bear swam across river towards Trout Creek boat camp (1)
- Bear at Trout Creek boat camp (1)
- Bear in Crowsfoot boat camp at 4:00 am (1)
- Portable electric fence was a good idea (1)
- Install warning signs prior to rapids (1)
- Provide information on maximum flows for types of watercraft (2)
- River too high and fast for beginner and intermediate canoeists (2)
- Prohibit floaters from fishing holes on tight corners during high water (1)
- Rafters need to exercise safety etiquette when canoeists are near (1)
- Make right channel at the split passable (9)
- Remove log in bottom section (1)

- Warn floaters about falling rocks during heavy rains (1)

Noxious Weeds

- Add information on actions the public can take (1)
- Need better weed control (4)
- Ask floaters and/or volunteers to pull weeds (3)
- Weed control efforts have made a difference (2)
- Timing and choice of chemical not encouraging (1)

Private Floats

During the 2008 float season, a total of 560 private groups floated the Smith River, involving a total of 3,931 individual public floaters. The 16-year average of private use is 527 groups with 3,212 people.

Commercially Outfitted Floats

During the 2008 float season, a total of 53 outfitted groups floated the Smith River, involving 695 floaters (clients and guides). The 16-year average of outfitted use is 49 groups per year with 575 people. The 9 recognized licensed outfitters are allocated a total of 73 commercial launches. All outfitter launches not used by the outfitters were made available to the public for use.

The following licensed outfitters operated on the Smith River in 2008:

- Big Sky Expeditions (Helena, MT)
- Blackfoot River Outfitters (Missoula, MT)
- Blast & Cast Outfitters (Ennis, MT)
- Glacier Wilderness Guides (West Glacier, MT)
- High Plains Drifter (Missoula, MT)
- Montana Fly Fishing Connection (Missoula, MT)
- Lewis & Clark Expeditions (Helena, MT)
- Paul Roos Outfitters (Helena, MT)
- The Complete Fly Fisher (Wise River, MT)

Landowner Day Floats

There are approximately 111 private landowners along the Smith River Corridor between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. Many of these landowners own small parcels (i.e. cabins or cabin sites) at the Two Creeks (mile 18.5) and Castle Bar (mile 22) subdivisions. The Smith River Special Use Area Rule provides floating opportunities for bona fide Smith River landowners to float the river with immediate family members for day floats with few restrictions. Eight landowner groups involving 54 people used this landowner floating privilege during the 2008 float season.

Landowner Non-Immediate Family Day Floats

In 1998, the Smith River Special Use Area Rule was modified to allow bonafide Smith River landowners to float the river with non-immediate family for day floats. Twelve landowner groups involving 75 people used this landowner floating privilege during the 2008 season.

Fee-Waived Floats

The Smith River Special Use Area Rule allows fee-waived floats under certain special criteria. One fee-waived float involving 15 people took place during the 2008 float season.

Commercial Shuttle Services

Three commercial shuttle services provided vehicle shuttles between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge for Smith River floaters this float season. At present, these businesses are not required to obtain a commercial use permit from FWP.

Boat Camp Ownership and Administration

FWP and the USFS maintain 27 boat camps containing 52 individual campsites throughout the 59-mile river corridor between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. Some boat camps have only one campsite while others have as many as two or three campsites at each boat camp. For example, Rock Creek Boat Camp has only one campsite, whereas Indian Springs Boat Camp has an upper, middle and lower campsite. Boat camps typically include a marked landing area, cleared areas for tents and cooking, and a primitive pit latrine.

Since 1986, FWP has leased private land for boat camps throughout the Smith River Corridor. Most leases are located along the lower sections of the canyon where there is very little public land; currently 10 of the 52 individual campsites along the river are leased sites. FWP leases Syringa Boat Camp (mile 15.2) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Staigmiller (mile 44), Upper, Middle and Lower Ridgetop (mile 45), Upper, Middle and Lower Givens Gulch (mile 47.2) and Upper and Lower Rattlesnake campsites (mile 47.4) are all leased from private landowners.

Leasing private lands for boat campsites has provided significant opportunities for the floating public, while compensating private landowners for the use of their land. Of the remaining 42 campsites, 14 sites are on FWP property and 28 are on USFS property.

Boat Camp Overnight Use

A user night is defined as “the number of nights one individual spends in the river corridor.” For example, one person spending 4 nights on the river equates to 4 user nights. A total of 16,498 user nights were recorded on the Smith River in 2008. Most of these user nights were spent in the 27 boat camps, while a handful of floaters spent the night in private cabins.

The table on page 23 summarizes 2008 Boat Camp Overnight Use. The data was derived from floater registration data collected at Camp Baker. The table shows the total number of groups that stayed at each site during the 2008 season and the ownership of each site.

2008 BOAT CAMP GROUP USE

BOAT CAMP	RIVER MILE	LAND OWNERSHIP	NUMBER OF GROUPS STAYED AT EACH BOATCAMP	% OF OVERALL USE
UPPER SPRING CREEK	4.4	FWP	7	0.33%
LOWER SPRING CREEK	4.4	FWP	4	0.19%
IN LIEU	5.6	FWP	5	0.23%
UPPER INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	6	0.28%
MIDDLE INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	45	2.10%
LOWER INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	23	1.07%
UPPER ROCK GARDEN	6.8	HLNF	46	2.15%
LOWER ROCK GARDEN	6.8	HLNF	11	0.51%
ROCK CREEK	8.9	HLNF	98	4.58%
UPPER SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	50	2.33%
MIDDLE SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	28	1.31%
LOWER SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	75	3.50%
SYRINGA	15.2	DNRC	87	4.06%
CANYON DEPTH	16.9	LCNF	96	4.48%
TWO CREEK	17.8	LCNF	19	0.89%
SHEEPWAGON	18.4	LCNF	45	2.10%
UPPER COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	73	3.41%
MIDDLE COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	50	2.33%
LOWER COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	5	0.23%
UPPER SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	53	2.47%
MIDDLE SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	65	3.03%
LOWER SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	78	3.64%
COUNTY LINE	25.5	LCNF	16	0.75%
UPPER BEAR GULCH	29	LCNF	10	0.47%
LOWER BEAR GULCH	29	LCNF	18	0.84%
UPPER TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	34	1.59%
MIDDLE TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	60	2.80%
LOWER TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	29	1.35%
CROWSFOOT	32	FWP	67	3.13%
UPPER TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	55	2.57%
MIDDLE TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	25	1.17%
LOWER TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	20	0.93%
UPPER FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	73	3.41%
MIDDLE FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	6	0.28%
LOWER FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	24	1.12%
UPPER PARKER FLAT	37.5	LCNF	62	2.89%
PARKER FLAT #1	37.9	FWP	22	1.03%
PARKER FLAT #2	37.9	FWP	8	0.37%
PARKER FLAT #3	37.9	FWP	37	1.73%
PARADISE BEND	39.5	FWP	56	2.61%
STAIGMILLER	44	PRIVATE	23	1.07%
MERGANSER BEND	44.5	FWP	11	0.51%
UPPER BLACK BUTTE	44.8	FWP	19	0.89%
LOWER BLACK BUTTE	44.8	FWP	12	0.56%
UPPER RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	62	2.89%
MIDDLE RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	34	1.59%
LOWER RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	74	3.45%
UPPER GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	57	2.66%
MIDDLE GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	37	1.73%
LOWER GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	74	3.45%
UPPER RATTLESNAKE	47.4	PRIVATE	88	4.11%
LOWER RATTLESNAKE	47.4	PRIVATE	60	2.80%
TOTALS			2142	100.00%

BOATCAMP LAND DISTRIBUTION		
# OF SITES	SITES OWNED BY	% OF TOTAL SITES
14	FWP	27%
1	DNRC	2%
9	PRIVATE	17%
28	USFS	54%
52		100%

2008 SMITH RIVER USE STATISTICS BREAKDOWN BY MONTH												
MONTH	APRIL	APRIL BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF APRIL USE	APRIL % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	MAY	MAY BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF MAY USE	MAY % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	JUNE	JUNE BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF JUNE USE	JUNE % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	JULY	JULY BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF JULY USE	JULY % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	140	97.90%	3.56%	1246	90.49%	31.70%	1535	72.85%	39.05%	977	83.65%	24.85%
# OF FLOATERS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	100	7.26%	14.39%	461	21.88%	66.33%	130	11.13%	18.71%
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	3	2.10%	4.55%	8	0.58%	12.12%	37	1.76%	56.06%	17	1.46%	25.76%
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	15	1.09%	100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	27	1.28%	50.00%	27	2.31%	50.00%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	8	0.58%	10.67%	47	2.23%	62.67%	17	1.46%	22.67%
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	143	100.00%	2.96%	1377	100.00%	28.47%	2107	100.00%	43.57%	1168	100.00%	24.15%
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	24	96.00%	4.29%	188	92.16%	33.57%	183	76.89%	32.68%	150	87.72%	26.79%
# OF GROUPS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	9	4.41%	16.98%	33	13.87%	62.26%	10	5.85%	18.87%
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	1	4.00%	4.55%	4	1.96%	18.18%	11	4.62%	50.00%	5	2.92%	22.73%
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.49%	100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	4	1.68%	50.00%	4	2.34%	50.00%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.98%	16.67%	7	2.94%	58.33%	2	1.17%	16.67%
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	25	100.00%	3.81%	204	100.00%	31.10%	238	100.00%	36.28%	171	100.00%	26.07%
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	503	97.67%	2.90%	5233	90.49%	30.22%	6576	73.40%	37.97%	4797	83.57%	27.70%
USER DAYS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	443	7.66%	12.79%	2178	24.31%	62.88%	823	14.34%	23.76%
USER DAYS - ADMIN	12	2.33%	4.94%	24	0.42%	9.88%	127	1.42%	52.26%	76	1.32%	31.28%
USER DAYS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	75	1.30%	100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	31	0.35%	53.45%	27	0.47%	46.55%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	8	0.14%	11.11%	47	0.52%	65.28%	17	0.30%	23.61%
USER DAYS - TOTAL	515	100.00%	2.43%	5783	100.00%	27.24%	8959	100.00%	42.20%	5740	100.00%	27.04%
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	409	97.85%	3.03%	4120	90.19%	30.51%	5138	73.65%	38.05%	3679	84.36%	27.25%
USER NIGHTS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	372	8.14%	13.59%	1726	24.74%	63.06%	623	14.29%	22.76%
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	9	2.15%	4.52%	16	0.35%	8.04%	112	1.61%	56.28%	59	1.35%	29.65%
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	60	1.31%	100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	418	100.00%	2.53%	4568	100.00%	27.69%	6976	100.00%	42.28%	4361	100.00%	26.43%
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	3.59			4.20			4.28			4.91		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - OUTFITTED	0.00			4.43			4.72			6.33		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	4.00			3.00			3.43			4.47		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	2.53			3.88			4.15			5.24		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	5.83			6.63			8.39			6.51		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - OUTFITTED	0.00			11.11			13.97			13.00		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	3.00			2.00			3.36			3.40		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	0.00			15.00			0.00			0.00		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			6.75			6.75		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMI	0.00			4.00			6.71			8.50		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	5.72			6.75			8.85			6.83		
# OF RAFTS	56	80.00%	2.52%	530	83.46%	23.82%	729	78.90%	32.76%	367	64.27%	16.49%
# OF CANOES	8	11.43%	0.36%	40	6.30%	1.80%	51	5.52%	2.29%	98	17.16%	4.40%
# OF DRIFT BOATS	1	1.43%	0.04%	35	5.51%	1.57%	86	9.31%	3.87%	16	2.80%	0.72%
# OF KAYAK	5	7.14%	0.22%	30	4.72%	1.35%	58	6.28%	2.61%	90	15.76%	4.04%
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	70	100.00%	3.15%	635	100.00%	28.54%	924	100.00%	41.53%	571	100.00%	25.66%
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	67	95.71%	3.01%	581	91.50%	26.11%	665	71.97%	29.89%	473	82.84%	21.26%
TOTAL OUTFITTED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	38	5.98%	1.71%	199	21.54%	8.94%	61	10.68%	2.74%
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	3	4.29%	0.13%	4	0.63%	0.18%	20	2.16%	0.90%	9	1.58%	0.40%
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	7	1.10%	0.31%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	15	1.62%	0.67%	13	2.28%	0.58%
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	5	0.79%	0.22%	25	2.71%	1.12%	15	2.63%	0.67%
TOTAL CRAFT	70	100.00%	3.15%	635	100.00%	28.54%	924	100.00%	41.53%	571	100.00%	25.66%
AVG # OF CRAFT - PRIVATE GROUP	2.79			3.09			3.63			3.15		
AVG # OF CRAFT - OUTFITTED GROUP	0.00			4.22			6.03			6.10		
AVG # OF CRAFT - ADMIN GROUP	3.00			1.00			1.82			1.80		
AVG # OF CRAFT - WAIVED	0.00			7.00			0.00			0.00		
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			3.75			3.25		
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0.00			2.50			3.57			7.50		
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	2.80			3.11			3.88			3.34		

2008 SMITH RIVER USE STATISTICS BREAKDOWN BY MONTH										YEAR	
MONTH	AUG	AUG BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF AUG USE	AUG % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	SEPT	SEPT BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF SEPT USE	SEPT % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	OCT	OCT BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF OCT USE	OCT % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	TOTAL	TOTAL PERCENT
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	2	100.00%	0.05%	18	72.00%	0.46%	13	92.56%	0.33%	3931	81.29%
# OF FLOATERS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	4	16.00%	0.58%	0	0.00%	0.00%	695	14.37%
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	7.14%	1.52%	66	1.36%
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	15	0.31%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	54	1.12%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	12.00%	4.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	75	1.55%
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	2	100.00%	0.04%	25	100.00%	0.52%	14	100.00%	0.29%	4836	100.00%
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	1	100.00%	0.18%	10	83.33%	1.79%	4	80.00%	0.71%	560	85.37%
# OF GROUPS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	8.33%	1.89%	0	0.00%	0.00%	53	8.08%
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	20.00%	4.55%	22	3.35%
# OF GROUPS WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.15%
# OF GROUPS LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	8	1.22%
# OF GROUPS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	8.33%	8.33%	0	0.00%	0.00%	12	1.83%
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	1	100.00%	0.15%	12	100.00%	1.83%	5	100.00%	0.76%	656	100.00%
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	50	100.00%	0.29%	88	81.48%	0.51%	70	94.59%	0.40%	17317	81.57%
USER DAYS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	20	18.52%	0.58%	0	0.00%	0.00%	3464	16.32%
USER DAYS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	4	5.41%	1.65%	243	1.14%
USER DAYS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	75	0.35%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	58	0.27%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	72	0.34%
USER DAYS - TOTAL	50	100.00%	0.24%	108	100.00%	0.51%	74	100.00%	0.35%	21229	100.00%
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	26	100.00%	0.19%	75	82.42%	0.56%	55	94.83%	0.41%	13502	81.84%
USER NIGHTS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	16	17.58%	0.58%	0	0.00%	0.00%	2737	16.59%
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	5.17%	1.51%	199	1.21%
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	60	0.36%
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	26	100.00%	0.16%	91	100.00%	0.55%	58	100.00%	0.35%	16498	100.00%
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	25.00			4.89			5.38			4.41	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - OUTFITTED	0.00			5.00			0.00			4.98	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	0.00			0.00			4.00			3.68	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	0.00			0.00			0.00			4.36	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	2.00			1.80			3.25			7.02	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - OUTFITTED	0.00			4.00			0.00			13.11	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	0.00			0.00			1.00			3.00	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			0.00			15.00	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			0.00			6.75	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0.00			3.00			0.00			6.25	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	2.00			2.08			2.80			7.37	
# OF RAFTS	1	50.00%	0.04%	6	40.00%	0.27%	4	50.00%	0.18%	1693	76.09%
# OF CANOES	1	50.00%	0.04%	9	60.00%	0.40%	3	37.50%	0.13%	210	9.44%
# OF DRIFT BOATS	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	138	6.20%
# OF KAYAK	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	12.50%	0.04%	184	8.27%
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	2	100.00%	0.09%	15	100.00%	0.67%	8	100.00%	0.36%	2225	100.00%
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	2	100.00%	0.09%	13	86.67%	0.58%	7	87.50%	0.31%	1808	81.26%
TOTAL OUTFITTED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	13.33%	0.09%	0	0.00%	0.00%	300	13.48%
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	12.50%	0.04%	37	1.66%
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	7	0.31%
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	28	1.26%
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	45	2.02%
TOTAL CRAFT	2	100.00%	0.09%	15	100.00%	0.67%	8	100.00%	0.36%	2225	100.00%
AVG # OF CRAFT - PRIVATE GROUP	2.00			1.30			1.75			3.23	
AVG # OF CRAFT - OUTFITTED GROUP	0.00			2.00			0.00			5.66	
AVG # OF CRAFT - ADMIN GROUP	0.00			0.00			1.00			1.68	
AVG # OF CRAFT - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			0.00			7.00	
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			0.00			3.50	
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0.00			0.00			0.00			3.75	
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	2.00			1.25			1.60			3.39	

SMITH RIVER TREND STATISTICS (1993-2008)

YEAR	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	AVERAGE
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	3,172	2,689	3,534	3,757	4,149	3,507	3,396	1,878	1,678	2,798	3,065	3,187	3,197	3,894	3,567	3,931	3,212
# OF FLOATERS - GUIDED	432	459	520	652	622	621	669	602	505	626	452	517	573	638	617	695	575
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	84	59	58	69	52	52	55	49	32	59	85	48	37	51	38	66	56
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21	0	0	0	0	0	12	15	15	7
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	21	12	42	40	47	67	19	54	35
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	26	46	70	63	87	74	73	75	60
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	3,688	3,207	4,112	4,478	4,823	4,180	4,120	2,596	2,262	3,541	3,714	3,855	3,941	4,736	4,329	4,836	3,901
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	664	481	665	632	689	585	511	340	291	450	450	503	526	582	507	560	527
# OF GROUPS - GUIDED	49	45	54	57	54	53	56	49	42	48	37	46	48	52	47	53	49
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	13	13	20	18	16	12	13	13	22	16
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	4	3	11	12	14	16	5	8	8
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	5	9	12	10	18	10	13	12	10
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	713	526	719	689	743	638	584	412	355	530	528	587	618	674	586	656	597
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	12,656	10,925	14,644	15,712	18,334	14,848	14,230	8,096	7,657	12,340	13,673	13,867	14,278	17,307	15,517	17,317	13,838
USER DAYS - GUIDED	1,940	2,325	2,561	3,274	3,080	3,026	3,418	2,984	2,490	3,129	2,205	2,429	2,860	3,168	3,080	3,464	2,840
USER DAYS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	238	228	127	195	377	215	157	222	171	243	217
USER DAYS - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	96	0	0	0	0	0	60	75	75	34
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	21	12	42	40	47	67	19	58	36
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	26	46	70	63	87	74	73	72	60
USER DAYS - TOTAL	14,596	13,250	17,205	18,986	21,414	17,874	17,886	11,450	10,321	15,722	16,367	16,614	17,429	20,898	18,935	21,229	16,886
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	9,540	8,365	10,015	11,749	14,036	11,088	10,968	6,191	5,995	10,141	10,636	10,502	11,078	13,288	11,938	13,502	10,565
USER NIGHTS - GUIDED	1,504	1,866	1,991	2,576	2,299	2,358	2,715	2,328	1,960	2,256	1,777	1,796	2,432	2,393	2,551	2,737	2,221
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	165	179	97	178	298	176	121	167	134	199	171
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	63	0	0	0	0	0	48	60	60	26
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	11,044	10,231	12,006	14,325	16,335	13,446	13,848	8,761	8,052	12,575	12,711	12,474	13,631	15,896	14,683	16,498	12,907
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	3.99	4.06	4.14	4.18	4.42	4.23	4.19	4.31	4.56	4.41	4.46	4.35	4.47	4.44	4.35	4.41	4.31
AVG DAYS/GROUP - GUIDED	4.49	5.07	4.93	5.02	4.95	4.87	5.11	4.96	4.93	5.00	4.88	4.70	4.99	4.97	4.99	4.98	4.93
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.33	4.65	3.97	3.31	4.44	4.48	4.24	4.35	4.50	3.68	4.19
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	4.00	4.20	4.20	4.30	4.50	4.30	4.54	4.64	4.49	4.24	4.59	4.51	4.57	4.59	4.61	4.36	4.41
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	4.78	5.59	5.31	5.94	6.02	5.99	6.65	5.52	5.77	6.22	6.81	6.34	6.08	6.69	7.04	7.02	6.05
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - GUIDED	8.82	10.20	9.63	11.44	11.52	11.72	11.95	12.29	12.02	13.04	12.22	11.24	11.94	12.27	13.13	13.11	11.56
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.24	3.77	2.46	2.95	4.72	3.00	3.08	3.92	2.92	3.00	3.31
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	15.00	15.00	4.69
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.67	5.25	4.00	3.82	3.33	3.36	4.19	3.80	6.75	4.18
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.80	5.20	5.11	5.83	6.30	4.83	7.40	5.62	6.25	5.76
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	5.17	6.10	5.72	6.50	6.49	6.55	7.05	6.30	6.37	6.68	7.03	6.57	6.38	7.03	7.39	7.37	6.54

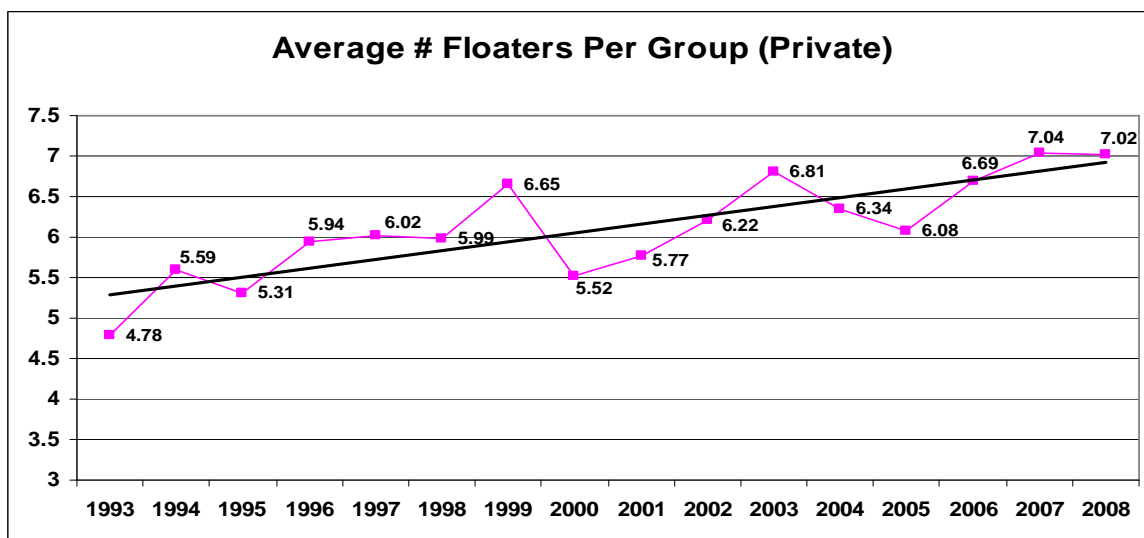
SMITH RIVER TREND STATISTICS CONTINUED (1993-2008)

YEAR	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	AVERAGE
# OF RAFTS	774	863	1114	1232	1409	1294	1294	882	759	1101	1245	1237	1311	1560	1545	1693	1,207
# OF CANOES	438	353	415	362	433	379	344	224	244	378	276	284	235	259	209	210	315
# OF DRIFT BOATS	100	82	140	132	147	97	74	44	37	63	96	86	113	119	128	138	100
# OF KAYAKS	61	46	105	88	96	141	99	67	56	151	133	157	133	206	162	184	118
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	12	30	24	49	60	8	13	14	24	55	23	56	44	90	NA	NA	36
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	1385	1374	1798	1863	2145	1919	1824	1231	1120	1748	1773	1820	1836	2234	2044	2225	1,719
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	1156	1173	1548	1579	1845	1604	1490	906	837	1368	1452	1503	1494	1867	1685	1808	1,457
TOTAL GUIDED CRAFT	187	171	208	256	278	265	308	269	241	293	209	218	253	240	267	300	248
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	26	28	20	42	45	28	20	33	24	37	30
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	7	3
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	10	6	20	19	20	32	18	28	18
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	12	39	47	52	49	59	44	45	40
AVG # OF CRAFT/PRIVATE GROUP	1.74	2.44	2.33	2.50	2.68	2.74	2.92	2.66	2.88	3.04	3.23	2.99	2.84	3.21	3.32	3.23	2.73
AVG # OF CRAFT/GUIDED GROUP	3.82	3.80	3.85	4.49	5.15	5.00	5.50	5.49	5.74	6.10	5.65	4.74	5.27	4.62	5.68	5.66	4.94
AVG # OF CRAFT/ADMIN GROUP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.53	2.15	1.54	2.10	2.50	1.75	1.67	2.54	1.85	1.68	1.97
AVG # OF CRAFT/WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	6.00	7.00	1.07
AVG # OF CRAFT/LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.00	2.50	2.00	1.82	1.58	1.43	2.00	3.60	3.50	1.90
AVG # OF CRAFT/LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.60	2.40	4.33	3.92	5.20	2.72	5.90	3.38	3.75	3.87
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	1.94	2.61	2.50	2.70	2.89	3.01	3.12	2.99	3.15	3.30	3.36	3.10	2.97	3.31	3.49	3.39	2.93
OUTFITTED % OF TOTAL GROUPS	6.87%	8.56%	7.51%	8.27%	7.27%	8.31%	9.59%	11.89%	11.83%	9.06%	7.01%	7.84%	7.77%	7.72%	8.02%	8.08%	8.53%
OUTFITTED % OF TOTAL FLOATERS	11.71%	14.31%	12.65%	14.56%	12.90%	14.86%	16.24%	23.19%	22.33%	17.68%	12.17%	13.41%	14.54%	13.47%	14.25%	14.37%	15.29%
HIGH WATER FLOW LEVEL IN CFS	555	656	454	676	3760	1480	564	533	447	1080	938	1650	1650	1290	853	1420	1,125
LOW WATER FLOW LEVEL IN CFS	102	53	64	64	226	115	75	29	34	63	43	79	100	60	43	85	77

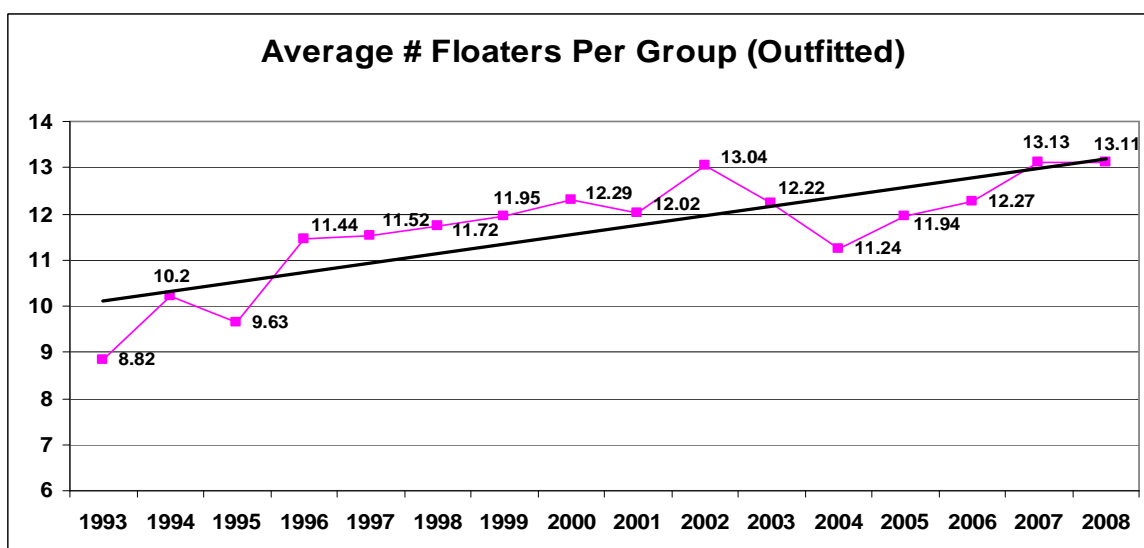
Visitor Use Trends – Average Group Size

The average group size for both private and outfitted floats has been steadily increasing. As the demand to float the Smith River has increased (graph 3, page 9), the number of individuals floating with a successful permit holder or an outfitter has also increased. This trend is of special concern to managers. As the average group size increases, the odds of exceeding the standards for one or more indicators also increase (pages 37-38). When this happens, FWP is mandated by the 1996 management plan to examine the levels and patterns of use to determine if a management action is warranted. Management actions typically would involve some type of use reduction, such as reducing the number of launches per day or the maximum group size to bring use levels back within compliance of the indicator standard(s).

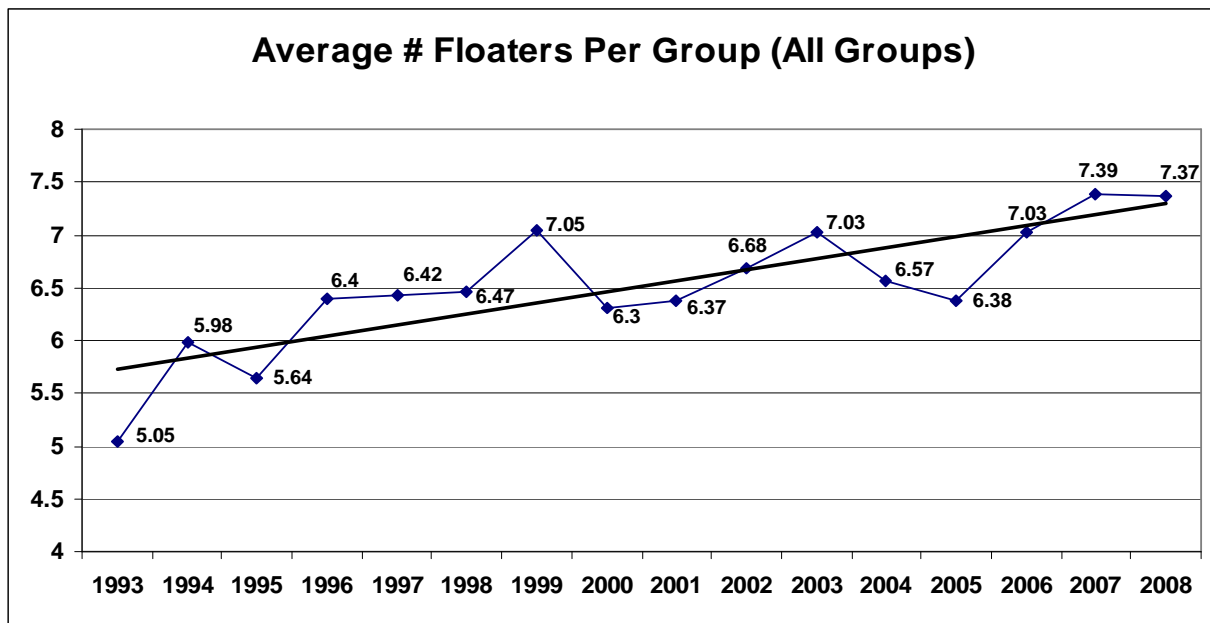
Graph 15 illustrates the trend of increasing group size for private groups. Graph 16 illustrates the trend of increasing group size for outfitted groups. Graph 17 illustrates the overall increase in average group size, combining private and outfitted groups, as well as landowner and administrative groups. The straight black line on each graph is the trend line. The steeper the slope of the trend line, the greater the yearly increases over time.



GRAPH 15: AVERAGE GROUP SIZE PER YEAR – PRIVATE GROUPS



GRAPH 16: AVERAGE GROUP SIZE PER YEAR – OUTFITTED GROUPS

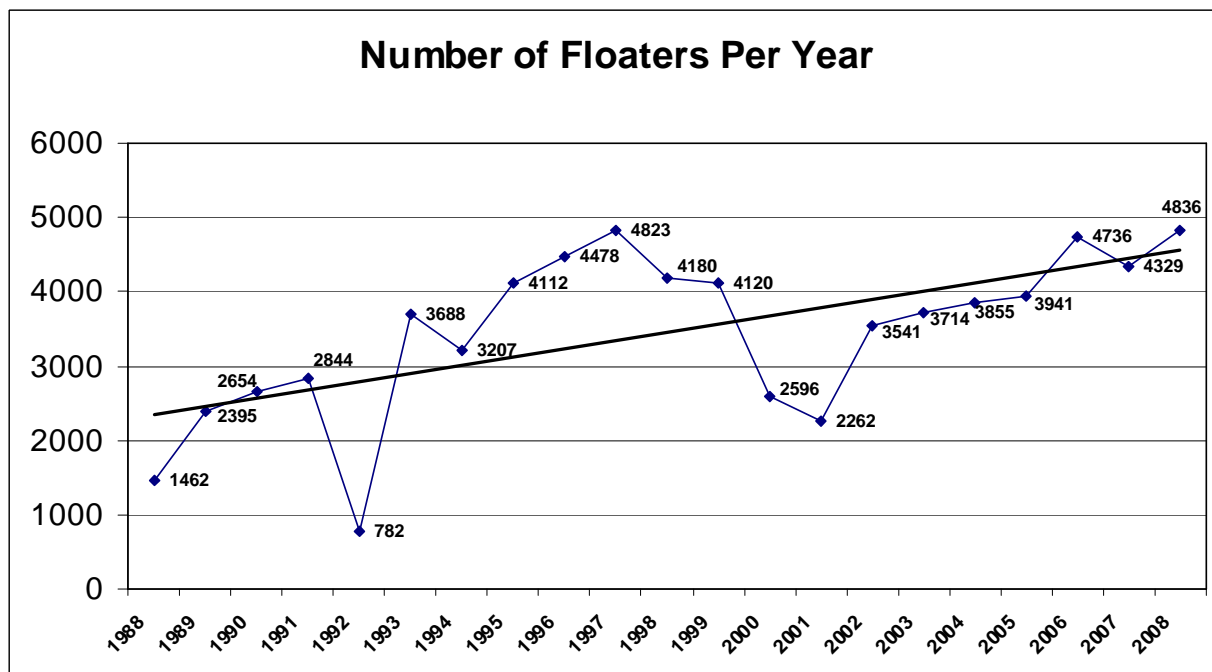


GRAPH 17: AVERAGE GROUP SIZE PER YEAR – ALL GROUPS COMBINED

Visitor Use Trends – Number of Floaters Per Year

The number of floaters per year has been steadily increasing. This increase is the result of a variety of factors including increased interest and demand to float the river (both peak and shoulder seasons) and an increase in average group size.

Graph 18 illustrates the trend of the increase in the number of floaters. The straight black line on each graph is the trend line. The steeper the slope of the trend line, the greater the yearly increases over time.



GRAPH 18: NUMBER OF FLOATERS PER YEAR

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2008)				
2008	CFS DAILY MEAN	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
1-Apr	96	0	0	0.00
2-Apr	93	0	0	0.00
3-Apr	93	0	0	0.00
4-Apr	99	0	0	0.00
5-Apr	104	0	0	0.00
6-Apr	97	0	0	0.00
7-Apr	97	0	0	0.00
8-Apr	101	0	0	0.00
9-Apr	99	0	0	0.00
10-Apr	99	0	0	0.00
11-Apr	98	0	0	0.00
12-Apr	100	0	0	0.00
13-Apr	109	0	0	0.00
14-Apr	136	0	0	0.00
15-Apr	163	0	0	0.00
16-Apr	154	2	7	3.50
17-Apr	141	3	9	3.00
18-Apr	152	4	12	3.00
19-Apr	157	5	16	3.20
20-Apr	Ice Affected	4	14	3.50
21-Apr	Ice Affected	2	7	3.50
22-Apr	Ice Affected	3	13	4.33
23-Apr	148	3	17	5.67
24-Apr	140	5	34	6.80
25-Apr	142	7	40	5.71
26-Apr	140	10	67	6.70
27-Apr	145	13	79	6.08
28-Apr	179	13	78	6.00
29-Apr	241	11	62	5.64
30-Apr	264	10	60	6.00
1-May	225	12	72	6.00
2-May	196	17	96	5.65
3-May	186	22	123	5.59
4-May	225	24	130	5.42
5-May	243	26	122	4.69
6-May	307	29	167	5.76
7-May	343	29	165	5.69
8-May	347	32	191	5.97
9-May	331	30	186	6.20
10-May	302	29	192	6.62
11-May	302	32	191	5.97
12-May	319	24	121	5.04
13-May	319	28	165	5.89
14-May	330	30	176	5.87

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2008)				
2008	CFS DAILY MEAN	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
15-May	305	34	202	5.94
16-May	337	32	221	6.91
17-May	445	35	252	7.20
18-May	570	39	262	6.72
19-May	753	35	256	7.31
20-May	751	28	190	6.79
21-May	813	26	174	6.69
22-May	779	23	179	7.78
23-May	799	24	185	7.71
24-May	838	22	189	8.59
25-May	1090	20	167	8.35
26-May	1040	26	207	7.96
27-May	918	25	193	7.72
28-May	815	29	224	7.72
29-May	794	29	243	8.38
30-May	775	32	288	9.00
31-May	713	29	254	8.76
1-Jun	700	29	242	8.34
2-Jun	748	31	226	7.29
3-Jun	799	29	212	7.31
4-Jun	801	27	223	8.26
5-Jun	953	32	270	8.44
6-Jun	889	30	247	8.23
7-Jun	815	27	230	8.52
8-Jun	791	31	272	8.77
9-Jun	770	25	215	8.60
10-Jun	862	28	240	8.57
11-Jun	890	31	279	9.00
12-Jun	1,070	33	299	9.06
13-Jun	1,140	37	344	9.30
14-Jun	1,310	37	355	9.59
15-Jun	1420	37	360	9.73
16-Jun	1380	35	346	9.89
17-Jun	1260	33	325	9.85
18-Jun	1140	33	330	10.00
19-Jun	1030	36	358	9.94
20-Jun	955	30	302	10.07
21-Jun	902	33	302	9.15
22-Jun	887	32	314	9.81
23-Jun	887	31	282	9.10
24-Jun	825	35	311	8.89
25-Jun	761	38	332	8.74
26-Jun	717	37	332	8.97
27-Jun	662	35	325	9.29

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2008)				
2008	CFS DAILY MEAN	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
28-Jun	600	36	360	10.00
29-Jun	532	39	383	9.82
30-Jun	500	35	343	9.80
1-Jul	490	35	336	9.60
2-Jul	557	40	385	9.63
3-Jul	587	36	354	9.83
4-Jul	525	36	330	9.17
5-Jul	494	38	348	9.16
6-Jul	460	34	316	9.29
7-Jul	416	33	272	8.24
8-Jul	381	32	244	7.63
9-Jul	356	35	249	7.11
10-Jul	336	34	203	5.97
11-Jul	312	34	210	6.18
12-Jul	301	35	210	6.00
13-Jul	288	32	192	6.00
14-Jul	271	30	196	6.53
15-Jul	249	27	175	6.48
16-Jul	239	26	180	6.92
17-Jul	233	23	168	7.30
18-Jul	219	18	142	7.89
19-Jul	207	26	182	7.00
20-Jul	191	26	181	6.96
21-Jul	173	27	180	6.67
22-Jul	153	25	143	5.72
23-Jul	174	20	100	5.00
24-Jul	162	17	88	5.18
25-Jul	158	13	52	4.00
26-Jul	156	9	38	4.22
27-Jul	142	11	44	4.00
28-Jul	135	13	59	4.54
29-Jul	127	13	64	4.92
30-Jul	120	11	51	4.64
31-Jul	114	10	48	4.80
1-Aug	110	4	22	5.50
2-Aug	102	1	11	11.00
3-Aug	110	1	11	11.00
4-Aug	105	1	2	2.00
5-Aug	97	1	2	2.00
6-Aug	95	1	2	2.00
7-Aug	94	0	0	0.00
8-Aug	95	0	0	0.00
9-Aug	100	0	0	0.00
10-Aug	97	0	0	0.00

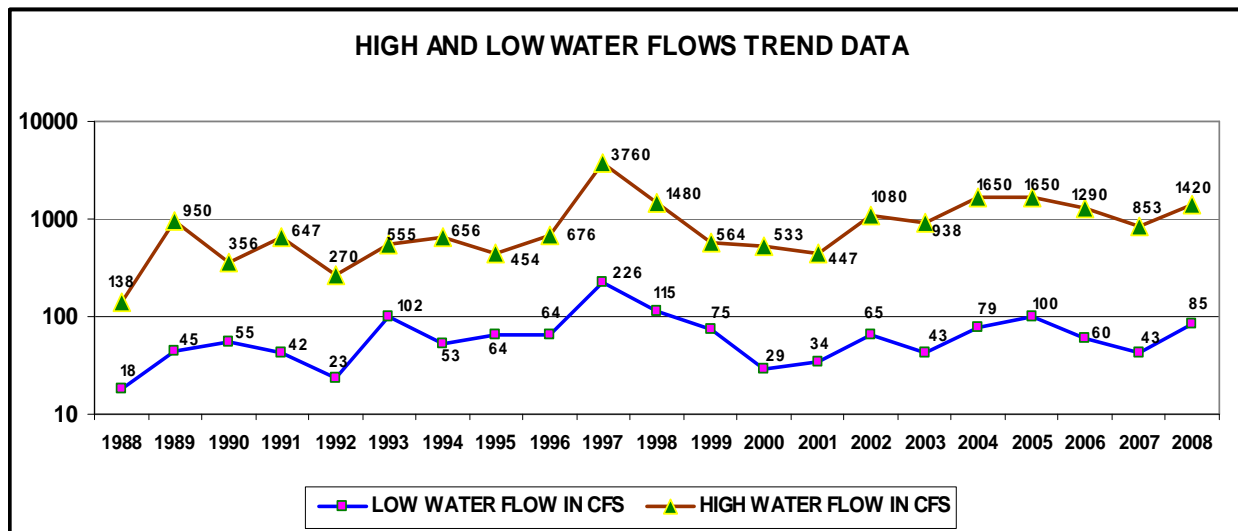
SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2008)				
2008	CFS DAILY MEAN	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
11-Aug	97	0	0	0.00
12-Aug	98	0	0	0.00
13-Aug	100	0	0	0.00
14-Aug	92	0	0	0.00
15-Aug	94	0	0	0.00
16-Aug	93	0	0	0.00
17-Aug	93	0	0	0.00
18-Aug	86	0	0	0.00
19-Aug	89	0	0	0.00
20-Aug	91	0	0	0.00
21-Aug	99	0	0	0.00
22-Aug	108	0	0	0.00
23-Aug	102	0	0	0.00
24-Aug	99	0	0	0.00
25-Aug	96	0	0	0.00
26-Aug	91	0	0	0.00
27-Aug	90	0	0	0.00
28-Aug	91	0	0	0.00
29-Aug	88	0	0	0.00
30-Aug	85	0	0	0.00
31-Aug	90	0	0	0.00
1-Sep	125	0	0	0.00
2-Sep	128	0	0	0.00
3-Sep	125	0	0	0.00
4-Sep	121	1	2	2.00
5-Sep	116	1	2	2.00
6-Sep	131	2	3	1.50
7-Sep	149	2	3	1.50
8-Sep	155	2	3	1.50
9-Sep	144	2	3	1.50
10-Sep	137	2	3	1.50
11-Sep	138	4	10	2.50
12-Sep	132	3	8	2.67
13-Sep	128	4	9	2.25
14-Sep	130	6	12	2.00
15-Sep	129	5	9	1.80
16-Sep	122	3	4	1.33
17-Sep	116	4	6	1.50
18-Sep	115	3	4	1.33
19-Sep	116	4	5	1.25
20-Sep	123	2	3	1.50
21-Sep	122	1	1	1.00
22-Sep	123	1	1	1.00
23-Sep	129	1	1	1.00
24-Sep	130	1	1	1.00

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2008)				
2008	CFS DAILY MEAN	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
25-Sep	135	0	0	0.00
26-Sep	131	0	0	0.00
27-Sep	128	0	0	0.00
28-Sep	126	2	5	2.50
29-Sep	125	2	5	2.50
30-Sep	121	2	5	2.50
1-Oct	120	2	5	2.50
2-Oct	121	3	7	2.33
3-Oct	119	1	2	2.00
4-Oct	123	1	2	2.00
5-Oct	129	1	2	2.00
6-Oct	128	1	2	2.00
7-Oct	125	0	0	0.00
8-Oct	123	0	0	0.00
9-Oct	121	0	0	0.00
10-Oct	125	1	6	6.00
11-Oct	127	1	6	6.00
12-Oct	132	1	6	6.00
13-Oct	135	1	6	6.00
14-Oct	161	1	6	6.00
15-Oct	157	0	0	0.00
16-Oct	149	1	3	3.00
17-Oct	144	2	4	2.00
18-Oct	141	1	1	1.00
19-Oct	144	1	1	1.00
20-Oct	142	1	1	1.00
21-Oct	142	0	0	0.00
22-Oct	138	0	0	0.00
23-Oct	134	0	0	0.00
24-Oct	142	1	2	2.00
25-Oct	138	1	2	2.00
26-Oct	131	1	2	2.00
27-Oct	122	1	2	2.00
28-Oct	135	1	2	2.00
29-Oct	137	1	2	2.00
30-Oct	133	1	2	2.00
31-Oct	130	0	0	0.00

SECTION 6 – RESOURCE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

River Flows

The Smith River flows rely heavily on mountain snow pack and rainfall for seasonal floating opportunities. The stream flows are measured in cubic feet per second (cfs) at a USGS stream-measuring gauge approximately two miles below Camp Baker. FWP recommends minimum flows of 150 cfs for canoes/kayaks, 250 cfs for rafts and 350 cfs for drift boats and large cataracts. Most of the floating that occurred in 2008 began in late April and ended in late July. The lowest measured stream flow for the 2008 season was 85 cfs, (August 30), while the peak stream flow was 1,420 cfs (June 15).



GRAPH 18: HISTORICAL RIVER FLOW TRENDS

The Smith River USGS gauge may be found on the Internet at:
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mt/nwis/uv?06077200> or on the Smith River Floating webpage at:
<http://fwp.mt.gov/recreation/activities/smithriver/default.html>



LOWER GIVENS RAPIDS AT 1400 CFS

Resource Impacts

Physical resource impacts along the Smith River corridor can impair the ecological integrity of the area as well as the visitor experience. The following physical resource impacts are of particular concern:

- Loss of vegetative cover (bare ground, dust, mud)
- Soil erosion (loss of organic layer, no vegetation regeneration)
- Tree root exposure (weakens trees often leading to premature death)
- Campfire impacts (charred vegetation, sterilized soil)
- Improper disposal of human waste (pathogen transmission, sight & smell)
- Green tree cutting and damage (loss of regeneration, weakening, death)
- Habituated or food-conditioned wildlife (human safety threat)
- Littering
- Dogs off leash (waste, harassing wildlife, nuisance)



MEASURING RESOURCE IMPACTS IN BOAT CAMP

Noxious Weed Control

FWP and the USFS work cooperatively to control noxious weeds within the Smith River Corridor. Leafy spurge is the most common noxious weed along the river corridor. Smith River weed control activities continued in 2008 with an emphasis on the established educational and chemical spraying programs. Bio-control (flea beetles) was not conducted in 2008. Educational weed information was posted on the "Information

Board” adjacent to the floater registration kiosk. Smith River weed control activities and education continued to be included in the river ranger’s pre-launch talks.

Late summer of 2005, FWP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meagher and Cascade County Weed Districts, USDA Forest Service and the Smith River Habitat Project Inc. for cooperative management of noxious weeds throughout the Smith River Corridor.

In 2008, as in years past, weed control activities included a USFS crew conducting a five-day float to spray for leafy spurge and other noxious weeds during early July. The goal for chemical spraying along the river is to keep the leafy spurge controlled and from spreading up the mountainsides and leaving the rim of the canyon.

For the 3rd year in a row, a volunteer crew lead by personnel from Malmstrom Air Force Base conducted a weed pull float, pulling and bagging Hound’s Tongue within all the boat camps.

For the 2nd year in a row, county weed district personnel in cooperation with members of the Smith River Habitat Project applied herbicide directly within several mid-canyon boat camps. This is performed in late summer or early fall when the river becomes unfloatable due to low flows. The boat camps are accessed via private roads with permission granted from several landowners. A total of 21 acres was sprayed in 2008.

Controlling noxious weeds along the Smith River Corridor is very difficult due to access. The only practical way to reach most areas of publicly owned land for spraying or bio-release is to float. It takes at least 4-5 days to float the river and treat weeds along the way. Each trip is costly and requires considerable coordination and staffing efforts to complete. Approximately 80% of the property along the river is privately owned with the other 20% being public. Leafy spurge is very difficult to control along a water route, especially when there are approximately 111 different private and public landowners with riverfront property.

Management Plan Use Indicators

The current management plan for the Smith River program was developed in 1995 and adopted in 1996. The plan defines three management indicators, with standards to address social impacts to aid in gauging the quality of the river experience for the recreation user.

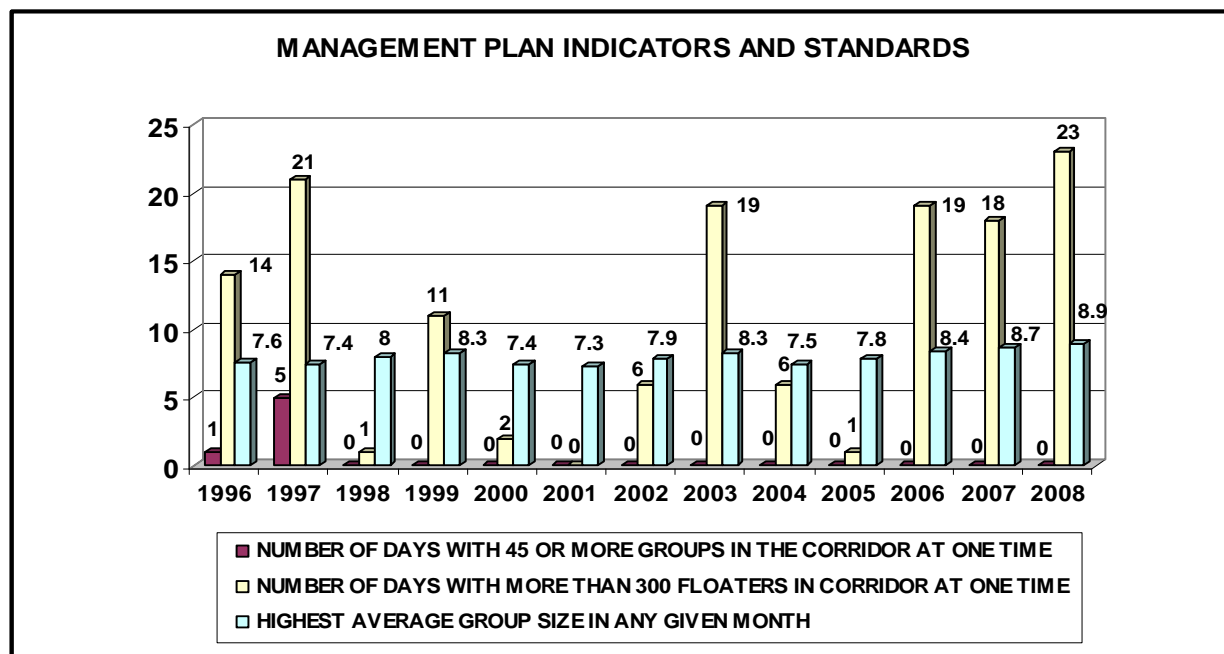
- #1 – The indicator is the ***number of groups in the canyon at one time*** and the standard is to have no more than three days per float season with 45 or more groups in the canyon at one time.
- #2 – The indicator is the ***number of floaters in the canyon at one time*** and the standard is no more than six days with more than 300 floaters in the canyon at one time.
- #3 – The indicator is ***average group size*** and the standard is to have no higher average than eight persons per group per month period.

In 2008, the standards for two of the three indicators were exceeded, or out of compliance (graph 19, page 38). There were 23 days during which there were 300 or more floaters in the canyon at a given time (standard is no more than 6 days over 300). In addition, the average group size during the month of June was 8.85 (standard is no higher average than 8 during a given month). The standard for the number of groups in the canyon at one time was in compliance, with zero days with 45 or more groups in the canyon at a given time.

The 1996 Smith River Management Plan mandates that when a standard for the indicators is out of compliance, FWP will study the levels and patterns of the river's use further and prepare a recommended action to the FWP Commission. This recommended action may include reducing the number of launches per day or the maximum group size. Any recommended change would likely affect the number and group size for both private and outfitted groups, while recognizing the historic percentages between these two types of users. The goal has been to return the floater use numbers back within the current standards and indicators.

In 1998, the cancellation procedure was modified due to management plan standards and indicators having been exceeded, requiring FWP to make modifications to the permit system procedures. As a result, the change adopted by the FWP Commission was to not refill the first five canceled permits (private or commercial) each week between June 10th and July 10th. This time period reflected the most popular period to float and the period when the management plan indicators were being exceeded. Outside the high-use period of June 10th to July 10th, the cancellation policy remained the same, allowing all canceled permits to be refilled.

In 2003, to help keep overall use numbers within the management plan standards, the maximum group size was limited to 8 people per group for permits that were canceled and reissued from May 25th - July 10th.



GRAPH 19: MANAGEMENT PLAN INDICATORS & STANDARDS (1996-2008 TRENDS)

Compliance

FWP staff has the authority to enforce recreational use and resource protection regulations throughout the Smith River Corridor.

River Rangers typically take an 'educational approach' to minor violations, seeking the lowest level of enforcement action necessary to gain compliance with established rules and regulations on the river. However, River Rangers have the authority and discretion to issue citations when necessary and appropriate. Enforcement actions range from verbal warnings to written warnings to Notice To Appear (NTA) in Court.

Incident Summary

The following incidents of significance, both law enforcement and non-law enforcement in nature, were documented during the 2008 season:

Incidents investigated and reported by FWP staff

- **Commercial Use Violations:** Three licensed guides cited for FAS Permit violation and one guide cited for PFD (life jacket) violation. Notices To Appear (NTA) issued.
- **Fee Compliance – Failure To Pay or Self-Register:** Private party failed to properly self-register or pay required floater fees. Party contacted on river by Ranger Holtz who collected individuals' information and gave verbal warning. Party subsequently mailed required fees to FWP.
- **Firearms – Discharging in Boat Camp:** Male individual fired handgun in Middle Sunset Cliff Boat Camp. Ranger Antonich gave a verbal warning.
- **Safety – River Closure:** River closed (March 27) by Commission order due to hazardous ice conditions between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. Closure rescinded on April 11.
- **Safety – Stranded Floaters:** Two float parties stranded on the river for three days due to river ice. Welfare checks conducted by three separate flyovers. Parties exited the river via a private landowner.
- **Safety – Boat Camp Closure:** Black bear obtained human food reward and made physical contact with Ranger Antonich (licked hand) at Sunset Cliff Boat Camp. Camps were closed for remainder of season.
- **Theft:** An experimental electric fence placed at Crowsfoot boat camp for food storage was stolen, sometime between July 23 and October 18.
- **Vehicles – Off Road:** Evidence of off-road motorized OHV use on FWP property (river left) proceeding west along Trout Creek.
- **Wildlife Encounter:** Black bear obtained a human food reward from a cooler at

Crowsfoot boat camp.

- **Wildlife Encounter:** Black bear obtained a human food reward from a garbage bag at Sunset Cliff boat camp.
- **Wildlife Encounter:** Male individual hiking on USFS Trail #331 (above Sunset Cliff boat camp) encountered an aggressive black bear. Individual hit the bear over the head with a stick in self-defense and was treed for one hour before the bear left.
- **Wildlife Encounter:** Black bear obtained a human food reward from a cooler at Sunset Cliff boat camp and licked the hand of Ranger Antonich while he slept (see boat camp closure above).



SMITH RIVER DURING ICE CLOSURE – NEAR SYRINGA BOAT CAMP

Incidents verbally reported to FWP or recorded by floaters onto Floater Logs:

- **Disorderly Conduct – Public Intoxication:** Report of a very intoxicated group in an adjacent boat camp.
- **Disorderly Conduct – Quiet Hours Violation:** Reports of loud voices and music late night at Camp Baker and Upper Rattlesnake boat camp.
- **Firearms – Discharging in Boat Camp:** Report of firearms being discharged. Location unknown.
- **Fireworks – Discharging in Boat Camp:** Evidence of fireworks found in a fire ring.
- **Littering:** Numerous recordings of litter found within boat camps and fire rings. Two reports of litter found in latrines and one report of litter in the river.

- **Property Disturbance – Tree Cutting:** Report of group dropping a standing tree at Upper Table Rock boat camp. Report of group cutting branches off standing trees at Ridgetop boat camp.
- **Other Reported Incidents:** Other incidents reported onto floater logs included; improper disposal of waste (dog and human), dogs off leash, unlawful fires (outside designated ring or not extinguished), and fishing violations.

Parks Patrol Log Cards

Parks Patrol Log Cards are pocket-sized cards carried by Region 4 parks personnel to document resource and social impacts and to record specific types of visitor contacts. The impacts and contacts recorded are used for situations that do not warrant the use of the more serious and formal Incident Report Form.

Patrol Log Summary

50 Patrol Log Cards were completed in 2008. The type of impact and visitor contact is listed, with the frequency of each in parenthesis.

Resource and Social Impacts

- Littering – Boat Camp (6)
- Littering – River (1)
- Refuse in Fire Grate (22)
- Campfire Rings or Impacts (2)
- Dog Off Leash (4)
- Human Waste (1)
- Tree Cutting (1)
- Unattended Campfire – Not Extinguished (5)
- Property Disturbance – Fire Ring Moved (4)
- Property Disturbance – Rock Graffiti (1)
- Vehicles – Off Road Driving/Parking (2)
- Firearms – Discharging in Boat Camp (1)
- Big Game – Dog Harassing Game Animal (1)

Visitor Contacts

- Educational Contact – Dog Off Leash (1)
- Verbal Warning – Dog Off Leash (4)
- Verbal Warning – Littering (2)
- Verbal Warning – Refuse in Fire Grate (3)
- Verbal Warning – Trespassing (4)
- Verbal Warning – Off Road Driving/Parking (2)
- Verbal Warning – Discharging Firearm in Boat Camp (1)
- Verbal Warning – Campfire Not Extinguished (1)
- Verbal Warning – Quiet Hours (1)
- Verbal Warning – Public Urination (1)

References

The following reference materials and documents regarding the Smith River are on file at the Region 4 FWP Headquarters in Great Falls, Montana, and/or available on the FWP (Smith River State Park) website:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/recreation/activities/smithRiver/default.html>

- Smith River Management Plan (January 1996)
- Smith River Special Use Area Rule (December 2008)
- Parks Biennial Fee Rule (December 2008)



PREPARING TO DEBARK FROM RATTLESNAKE BOAT CAMP

The Smith River - A Magical Place and Montana Treasure

QUOTE FROM A 2008 FLOATER LOG